

JEMARCUS HARDRICK
YOSHI'S Story

GAME PREVIEW
MISSOURI Tigers

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



SHOOTOUT

Martinez throws for 323 yards, five touchdowns and rushes for another 112 in 51-41 victory in Stillwater.



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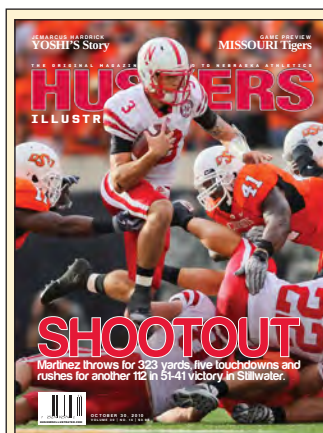
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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 15, the Missouri recap/Iowa State preview, will be mailed Monday, Nov. 1. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS
ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Taylor Martinez hurdles the competition en route to one of the best days ever for a Husker quarterback. Martinez threw five touchdowns and became the first Husker QB to rush for 100 yards and throw for 300 in a game. His 435 yards of total offense ranked third all-time in Nebraska history.

Photo by Aaron Babcock



THE BIG FAKE

Alex Henery runs picks
up 27 yards on a fake
punt to convert on a 4th
and 8 in the first quarter.

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN





COWBOY CRUNCH

Lavonte David, Jared
Crick and Cameron
Meredith sandwich
Oklahoma State
quarterback Brandon
Weeden for a sack.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK





RUNNING LOOSE

Taylor Martinez gashes the Oklahoma State defense in the first quarter.

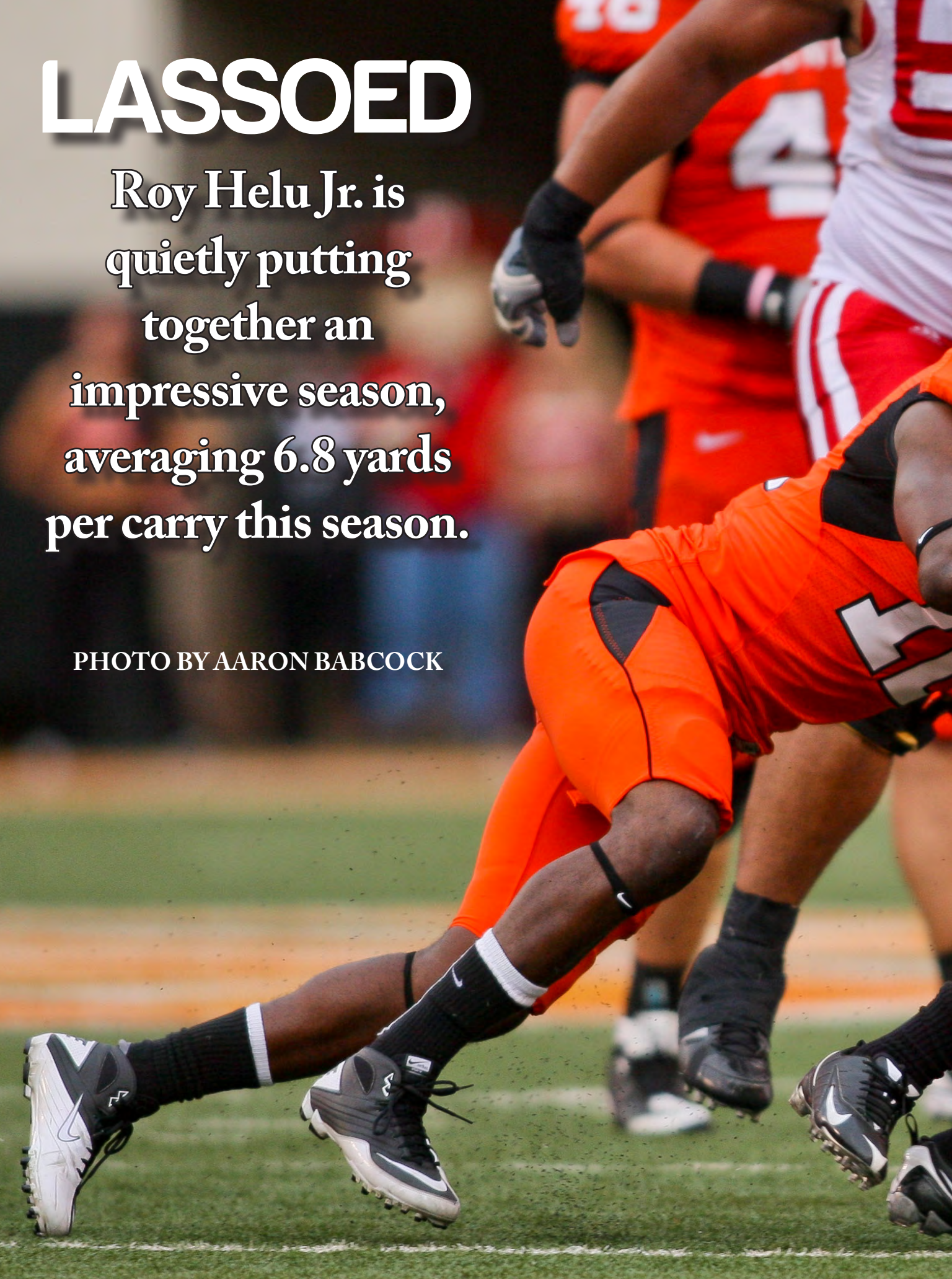
PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



LASSOED

Roy Helu Jr. is quietly putting together an impressive season, averaging 6.8 yards per carry this season.

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK







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SHOWDOWN

Huskers to battle undefeated Missouri for Big 12 North title



THE STORYLINE is simple this week.

Nebraska vs. Missouri.

Winner takes all.

Sure each team has four games remaining on the schedule after Saturday, but a loss will torpedo the Cornhuskers hopes of returning to the Big 12 title game. A win will put Nebraska in the driver's seat for the Big 12 North title.

It all comes down to Saturday.

A few weeks ago, I thought Missouri looked more like paper tigers than a national title contender.

But after knocking Oklahoma off its perch as the No. 1 team in the BCS standings Saturday, they stand as the lone Big 12 team in the hunt for the national title.

So while the Tigers are never lacking in confidence, they will certainly be puffing their chests when they pull into Lincoln this weekend.

I think it's safe to say the majority of Nebraska fans want to beat Missouri, no matter the stakes. The same goes for Missouri fans when facing Nebraska.

So what's Nebraska's biggest obstacle for a victory? The answer is Nebraska.

For whatever reason, Nebraska

has been awful at home this year and impressive on the road.

The Huskers are averaging 29 points at home this season against inferior opponents like Western Kentucky, Idaho, South Dakota State and Texas.

But against much tougher competition on the road (Washington, Kansas State and Oklahoma State), Nebraska is scoring at a clip of 52 points per game.

What gives?

I don't buy the argument that Nebraska feels pressure to perform at home. I feel it's the exact opposite.

It's a matter of focus, or lack thereof.

Nebraska hasn't looked ready to play at home, and instead has played like victories are automatic.

Nebraska can't afford that "gimme" mentality on Saturday. If this Big 12 Farewell Tour is going to have a happy ending, the Huskers will need to play with the same intensity they took to Seattle, Manhattan and Stillwater.

If Nebraska brings the fight to Memorial Stadium Saturday, it should be sitting in Dallas on Dec. 4. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





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2MinuteDrill

Welcome back

During Nebraska's weekly news conference on the Tuesday before the Washington game, Carl Pelini was asked if he had a "sense" of when sophomore linebacker Will Compton would be able to return to action. Compton had been sidelined by a broken foot, suffered near the end of fall camp.

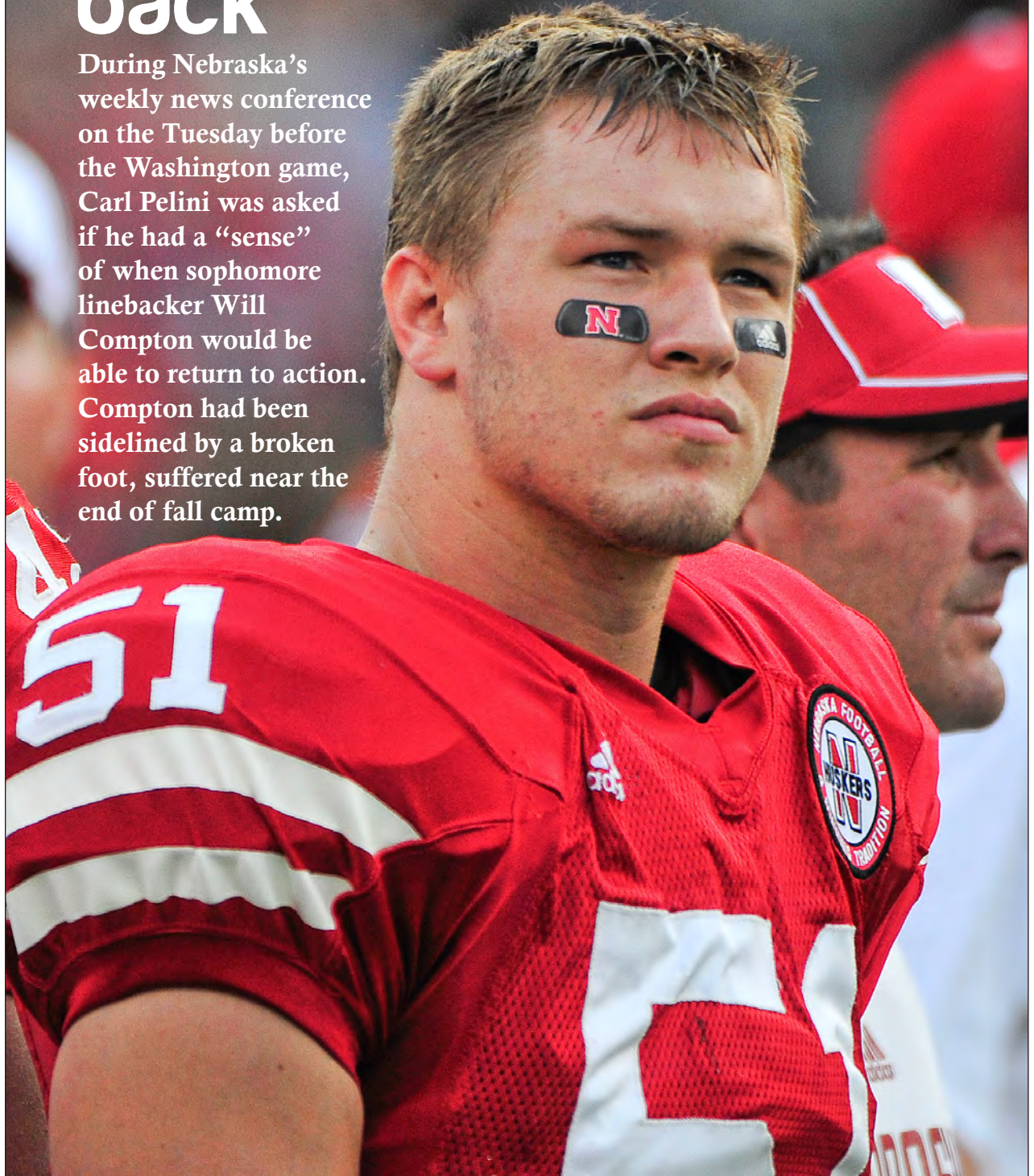


PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

“Do I have a sense?” Pelini replied, putting his fingers to his temples as if he were a psychic.

The Cornhusker defensive coordinator does have a dry sense of humor.

“I don’t know. I mean, honestly, there’s some healing that needs to go on there, and I think everybody’s different, so the time frame could be a couple more weeks, a little more than that,” he said.

As it turned out, Compton needed just a little more than two weeks from then. He returned to practice on the Monday before the Texas game and saw action against the Longhorns.

The day after the injury “was a rough 24 hours,” said Compton. But “you’ve got to move forward, think of positive things. I was wanting to help out the team any way I could.”

While Compton talked to reporters after practice, teammate DeJon Gomes stopped and held out a Gatorade bottle as if it were an audio recorder and he was participating in the interview.

He was anxious to return, of course, Compton said. “I was curious of when I’d get back. I asked them (medical staff) like every day, and they wouldn’t tell me. DeJon (Gomes) will tell you, too. They’re like, ‘Six to eight weeks,’ and I was like, ‘Do you think I could be back in six weeks?’

“Mark (Mayer), our head trainer, was like, ‘That’d be pushing it, six weeks.’ So I think I healed pretty well, pretty fast, better than what they thought. I had my boy DeJon in the rehab room with me every day, asking, and saying countdown days. DeJon kept saying I’ll be back (for) K-State. They said just take it a day at a time. But I’ve been very blessed to come back as fast as I did.”

Immediately after the injury, Compton rode a scooter. “It had its positives,” he said. “It was a little fun ride, but you started to feel like you were getting fatter and out of shape.”

More specifically, it was fun “when I got to pop a couple of wheelies and stuff. But I felt pretty retarded in front of people, just driving a scooter around,” Compton said.

Pelini didn’t disagree. “He looks ridiculous riding around in that scooter,” he had said.

Take that as it was meant. Remember Pelini’s sense of humor.

HI’S TOP 5

Tigers by the Tail



The Nebraska-Missouri series began with a forfeit in 1892, when Missouri refused to play against George Flippin. Though the Cornhuskers have dominated the series, which has been continuous since 1922, the Tigers have been an irritant. Tom Osborne’s teams lost their first three games in Lincoln to Missouri, and his record against the Tigers was 2-4 before a 24-game winning streak. Here are five in the series to remember:

- 1** **NEBRASKA 45, MISSOURI 38 (OT)** (Columbia) Nov. 8, 1997; Scott Frost passes to Matt Davison, by way of Shevin Wiggins.
- 2** **NEBRASKA 40, MISSOURI 34** (Lincoln) Nov. 4, 1950; Sophomore Bobby Reynolds, “Mr. Touchdown,” steals the show.
- 3** **NEBRASKA 6, MISSOURI 0** (Lincoln) Oct. 24, 1981; Phil Bates gets into the end zone with 23 seconds remaining.
- 4** **MISSOURI 35, NEBRASKA 31** (Lincoln) Nov. 18, 1978; James Wilder runs over Huskers’ national-title hopes (see Games Remembered).
- 5** **MISSOURI 16, NEBRASKA 7** (Lincoln) Nov. 3, 1962; Nebraska’s NCAA-record home sellout streak begins.

KNOWS HIS STUFF

TOM OSBORNE

You didn't have to look it up. You could have taken Tom Osborne's word for it.

"It was a game that probably had more big plays in it than I can remember," the Hall of Fame coach said on the day after Nebraska's 48-13 victory at Kansas State.

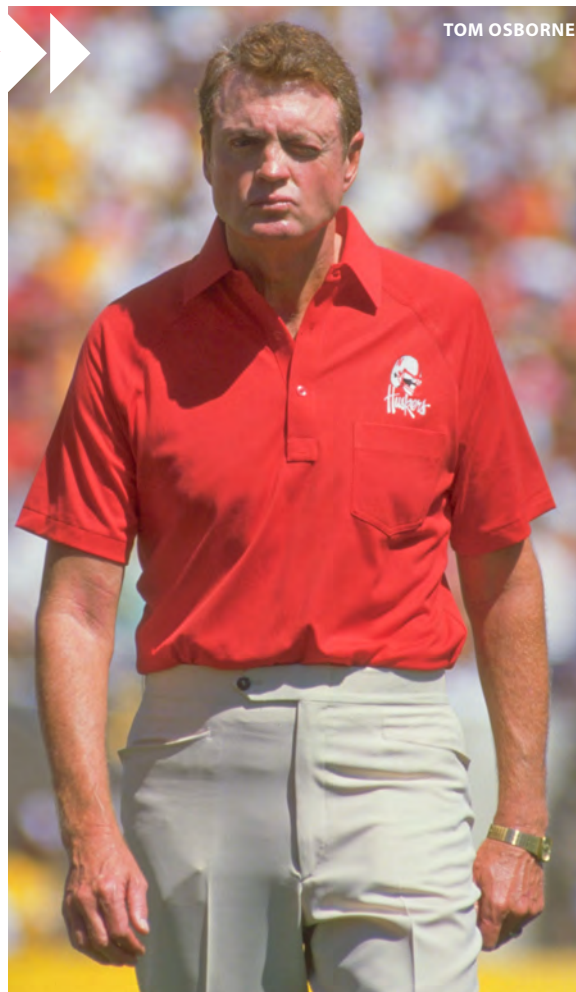
"I think we only had 52 snaps and we had very close to 600 yards, and 400 yards rushing. So we've had days where we had that many yards that we produced, but we may take 70, 75 snaps to do it. I can't remember having that many yards with that few snaps."

Osborne's memory was spot on. The Cornhuskers' 11.3 yards

per play, actually 11.288, were a school record by a fraction of a point. The previous record was 11.286 yards, set by Osborne's 1983 "Scoring Explosion" team against Minnesota – 790 yards on 70 plays in an 84-13 victory.

Nebraska averaged a school-record 10.82 yards per rush that day in the Metrodome, a fraction more than in Manhattan to open Big 12 play, 10.74 yards.

The Huskers' 587 yards of total offense against Kansas State were far short of the school record, however. In fact, the total was far from making the top 10.



RK OPPONENT, YR. . . . Yds, plays (Rush, Pass)

1. New Mexico State, 1982883, 104 (677, 206)
2. at Kansas, 1978799, 77 (516, 283)
3. at Minnesota, 1983790, 70 (595, 195)
4. Utah State, 1991787, 98 (617, 170)
5. Iowa State, 1995776, 89 (624, 152)
6. Pacific, 1995731, 106 (569, 162)
7. Kansas State, 1989723, 87 (542, 181)
8. Colorado, 1981719, 90 (541, 173)
9. Kansas State, 2007702, 80 (183, 519)
10. Pacific, 1994699, 81 (510, 189)



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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

ONCE UPON A TIME

Nebraska recruited Eric Hagg as an “athlete” out of Ironwood High in Peoria, Ariz., and wanted to play receiver on offense when he arrived. “When I didn’t play receiver, I kind of got down on myself, like, ‘I don’t really know how to play defense,’ and all that,” he said.

“I never thought I’d be whatever the coaches think I am, and what God gave me.”

Hagg is a key player in the “peso” defense, sometimes a nickel back and sometimes a linebacker. He’s comfortable with his role, giving up his desire to be a receiver long ago.

“They’ve got so much stuff I think they have to do, stuff that I don’t understand,”

said Hagg. “It would be fun to play, but I think it’s fun to play defense because it’s all reaction. They (coaches) give you a certain play, but after that you don’t have to think anymore; you just go and do.”

Before Bo Pelini arrived, Hagg worked with the receivers during one practice and ran some pass routes after another. “He tried out, but didn’t do too good,” Niles Paul said.

As a high school senior, Hagg caught 49 passes for 920 yards and nine touchdowns, after catching 12 touchdown passes as a junior. Considering his school-record 95-yard punt return for a touchdown against Texas, he hasn’t lost that receiver’s big-play capability.

SIDELINES

TACKLING TIME

What’s secondary coach Marvin Sanders’ favorite individual drill in practice? Tackling, according to cornerback Prince Amukamara, who was credited with 24 tackles in the first six games. “That’s one thing we do every day that we’re in full pads,” said Amukamara. “Even when we go with 1’s (on 1’s), Coach Carl (Pelini) is always telling us to ‘thud up’ or ‘butt up.’”

DUAL-THREAT QBs

Former Cornhuskers Tommie Frazier and Eric Crouch were included on The Lost Lettermen Website’s recent list of the top 10 “electrifying dual-threat college quarterbacks.”

1. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech
2. Vince Young, Texas
3. Denard Robinson, Michigan
4. **Eric Crouch, Nebraska**
5. Pat White, West Virginia
6. Darian Hagan, Colorado
7. Jamelle Holieway, Oklahoma
8. Brad Smith, Missouri
9. **Tommie Frazier, Nebraska**
10. Antwaan Randle El, Indiana



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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, April 17	Spring Game	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	TBA



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Schuyler



Mitch Hron has yet to play in a game at Nebraska. The redshirted freshman walk-on from Schuyler has spent his brief Cornhusker career on the scout team, first as a linebacker and more recently as a fullback. But he wouldn't trade the experience for a scholarship at a smaller school.

"I really do enjoy playing football," he said. "And the opportunity here is once in a lifetime. I know there's probably a million guys, high schoolers, who would love to be in the shoes I'm in."

"So I try to live it out to the fullest."

He also tries to represent his hometown to the fullest. "I feel a lot of pride," said Hron. "So it kind of propels me to do well. I try to show what kind of work ethic people from back home have."

Never mind that his contribution comes during practice instead of on Saturdays. That he's a Cornhusker is a big deal in Schuyler. Folks there were nearly as excited as he was when Nebraska let him know, in February of his senior year in high school, that he could walk on.

"We're all Husker fans where I'm from," he said. "I'm not a big name, but back home . . ."

Hron got to suit up once last season, for the Louisiana Lafayette game, sellout No. 300 at Memorial Stadium because, well, "I think everyone suited up for that one," he said.

No one enjoyed the experience more than he did, however.

"It was fantastic," he said. "I mean, I was nervous. I don't know why I was nervous; I wasn't going to go in. But it was just the whole Tunnel Walk, the whole pre-game warm-up, the whole 9 yards. That's a really exciting moment. For that 20 minutes, or that 10-second Tunnel Walk, it's worth it."

Hron shares an apartment with teammates Jeremiah Sirles, Nick Ash and Ron Kellogg III, also a walk-on. His roommates "call me a hick, maybe think I'm a little dumb-down because I'm from a small Nebraska town," Hron said.

But that's all in good fun.

"He's kind of a hometown hero back there, from what he tells me," said Sirles.

SCHUYLER, NE

County: Colfax

Population: 5,339 (2009)

Distance from Lincoln:

50 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ Shell Creek Station was renamed Schuyler in June 1870.
- ▶ The first municipal light and water plant in Nebraska was built at Schuyler, which is located one mile north of the Platte River, in 1891-92.
- ▶ The Oak Ballroom, built in 1937 where the Mormon Trail passed through the area, is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

NU FOOTBALL

LETTERMEN

Gary Brichacek, OT (1964-65-66)
Mel Brichacek, OG (1966-67-68)
William Holloran, T (1954)
Tim Johnk, FB (1989-90-91)
*Jeff Krejci, S (1979-80-81)
*Monte Pearson, OL (1911-12)

[*First-team all-conference]

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Penn State Nittany Lions

Penn State program includes six undefeated seasons, two national titles, rivalry with Huskers | TERRY DOUGLASS



PENN STATE'S football program is perhaps equally known for its success, non-descript uniforms and Hall of Fame head coach Joe Paterno.

The Nittany Lions became the sixth Football Bowl Subdivision program to surpass the 800-win mark in 2008 and their 27-13-2 bowl record ranks as the country's second-best bowl winning percentage among teams with at least 20 post-season appearances. Much of Penn State's winning tradition has come under Paterno, who is currently coaching his 45th season and owns the FBS record for most victories.

A long-time independent, Penn State joined the Big Ten Conference in 1993 and won

league titles in 1994, 2005 and 2008. Despite finishing undefeated in 1887, 1912, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1986 and 1994, the Nittany Lions have won just two consensus national championships (1982 and 1986).

Penn State leads 7-6 in the all-time series with Nebraska. The Nittany Lions and Cornhuskers last met in 2003 at Lincoln with NU recording an 18-10 victory at Memorial Stadium.

Perhaps the most memorable meeting between the two programs for Husker fans came in 1982 when a No. 8-ranked Penn State squad recorded a controversial 27-24 win over No. 2 Nebraska at Beaver Stadium.

DON'T MISS

Penn State University is located at State College, Pa., and is a 17-hour drive from Lincoln. The closest major airports are Pittsburgh International (126 miles from State College) and Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall (128 miles).

The Nittany Lions have played their home games in Beaver Stadium since 1960. The stadium has a natural grass playing surface and its seating capacity of 107,282 makes it the fourth largest in the world.

In 2009, CQ Press ranked State College as the safest metropolitan area in the United States. The State College area is often referred to as "Happy Valley." University Park, Pa., is an unincorporated community located within State College.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Joe Paterno is one of three active coaches who have been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. The 83-year-old is in his 61st season at Penn State overall, meaning he's coached in more than 57 percent of the games for a program that started in 1887.

NAMES TO KNOW

JOE PATERNO: Joined the Penn State staff in 1950 and served as the Nittany Lions' head coach for the past 45 years. Turned down head coaching offers from Michigan as well as Pittsburgh and New England of the NFL.

JOHN CAPPELLETTI: (Left) Penn State's lone Heisman Trophy winner, capturing college football's top individual honor in 1973. In what many regard as the most moving Heisman acceptance speech, Cappelletti dedicated the award to his dying younger brother, Joey.

CURT WARNER: (Right) A two-time All-American, Warner led Penn State in rushing three consecutive seasons, helping the Nittany Lions to the 1982 national title as a senior. Left college with 42 school records, including 3,398 yards rushing.

JACK HAM: (Center) Considered one of the greatest linebackers in NFL history, Ham is a member of both the pro and college football halls of fame. A three-year starter at Penn State, he had 251 career tackles. Because of players such as Ham, Penn State has been called "Linebacker U."

KERRY COLLINS: As a senior in 1994, Collins won both the Maxwell and Davey O'Brien awards and finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy balloting. He broke several single-season passing records as the Nittany Lions finished undefeated.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Pelini reflects on decision to pull Martinez

A COUPLE OF DAYS after Nebraska's 20-13 loss to Texas, Bo Pelini, sounding more reflective than second-guessing, brought up his decision to replace quarterback Taylor Martinez in the third quarter with 2009 starter Zac Lee.

At the time Pelini made the move, the Huskers trailed 20-3 and Martinez, who'd been a master at the zone-read option and draw play while rushing for 241 yards in a rout in his last performance at Kansas State, had been limited to 21 yards on 13 carries. He'd also grown frustrated from having some on-the-money throws be dropped by receivers.

"When you look back it, I don't know if that was the right thing to do," Pelini said. "Taylor wasn't the only problem. We were just looking for a spark. It was a tough situation for a young guy."

Pelini, just a third-year head coach, then put himself in the same shoes.

"You live and learn as a head coach," he said. "You don't know if that was the right decision to make, but it was the decision that was made and you move forward."

If this sounds like another case of things getting magnified more after a loss, you're right. It's usually a lot easier to hide mistakes in victory.

The thing with Martinez is the redshirted freshman quarterback had been so impressive in all but one of

Nebraska's first four wins.

He looked like a seasoned veteran while trashing the defenses of Washington and Kansas State in his first two trips outside Memorial Stadium. In between, there was the three-turnover struggle against South Dakota State. A typical bump in the road, where the natural reaction is to think that watching the final 11 minutes from the sideline will only serve Martinez well in the long run.

But when Texas shut the Huskers down and Lee came in to direct a drive for a field goal and another that ended with a dropped pass in the end zone, well, that was real news.

Pelini said he and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson made a joint decision to pull Martinez after Nebraska's first two series of the second half resulted in three-and-outs.

Watson said he sensed frustration in the young quarterback and didn't want problems to snowball. Martinez fumbled on his last carry of the day, and his final two pass attempts fell incomplete.

"He forced some decisions," Watson said when asked how Martinez handled his reads on running plays. "That led to some of his problems and our problems. Being eager in a big setting to make a play, those are things we've got to 'grow' through with a young player."

At the same time, Pelini put to rest any thought that Nebraska's quarterback situation was about to change.

"I have confidence in Taylor, I'll just leave it at that," he said.

Though Lee did an admirable job in his first action since the opener, Nebraska still was held without an offensive touchdown in a home game for the first time since a 1968 loss to Kansas State.

"Taylor is the starter and the other two guys (Lee and Cody Green) we use situationally," Pelini added.

That vote-of-confidence clarification may explain why Pelini was feeling like he did about the way things played out against Texas. Martinez, after all, is going to have to learn while facing adversity.

Watson pointed out how Martinez had no problem comprehending the game plan against the Longhorns. But, as is the case with most young players, going out and executing it is something else.

"If it's something that's entirely outside the game-plan structure, that's something he's going to have to grow into," Watson said. "But if it's something we're doing or have done during the week, or something we've done in the past, he's pretty efficient at it."

The process continues. **N**



6-7, 320, OFFENSIVE LINE
WILLISTON, N.D.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Brent Qvale

Offensive Lineman and His One-Time Hoop Dreams

NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE BRENT QVALE WASN'T A BASKETBALL PLAYER

because of lack of numbers on his team, like some multi-sport athletes from small towns in the Midwest. Williston High School had 800 students.

Qvale played because he liked the sport. And because he was good.

The 6-foot-7 Qvale averaged 21 points and 12 rebounds his senior season and was a first-team all-state selection his final two seasons.

"I was decent," Qvale says with a grin. "I've played it since I was little. I like basketball a lot."

Qvale said he also wanted to follow in

his brother's footsteps. Brian Qvale is a senior center on the University of Montana basketball team.

Brent said he always considered his brother his basketball idol while growing up.

"Because he was always the star, I guess, and when he left high school, I'd try to take over for him," Brent said. "Our high school needed a dominant player."

When it came to choosing a sport for college though, Brent always knew football was his future.

"I like basketball, but I kind of knew, and my dad always told me, 'You're going to be a

football player.' I kind of had more of the football body type, so I always knew I was going to play football."

These days, Brent doesn't find his way onto a basketball court very often.

"I haven't played basketball in a long time," he said. "Right now, I'd guarantee I'd be pretty rusty."



1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED What was your best move on the basketball court?
BRENT QVALE Probably a hook shot to the middle. A little baby hook.

2

HI What's something people in Nebraska may not know about your hometown (Williston, N.D.)?

QVALE That it's probably the biggest center of all the oil business right now in the nation. It's called the Bakken Formation. Basically, it's the biggest pool of oil in North America, so they're just pumping a ton out of there.



3

HI How has the oil business affected your hometown?

QVALE It's gotten huge. From the year and a half I've been here, it's grown a lot. I'd say probably close to 5,000 people have moved into my town to work it. It's pretty insane.

4

HI Who's your favorite NFL team?

QVALE Vikings. Well, except maybe not this year. But I still like them.

5

HI What's the biggest thing you've learned playing under Barney Cotton?

QVALE I'd say technique, because everyone is just as big, just as strong,

so it all boils down to technique. And playing hard. You can't take a play off or anything. You've got to be on your game the whole time.



CALL ME YOSHI.

**JERAMARCUS HARDRICH STANDS
6-7 WEIGHS 320 POUNDS AND IS
NAMED AFTER A TINY GREEN
VIDEO GAME DRAGON.**

BY MATT FULHS

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SOMEWHAT STRAIGHTFORWARD IF NOT ODD INTRODUCTION IN KANSAS.

"Are you a returner (returning player)?"

"Yeah, I am."

"Do you want to see my highlight tape?"

"Um, sure, I guess."

That was the first time Nebraska wide receiver Brandon Kinnie saw Jermarcus "Yoshi" Hardrick. Kinnie was in his second season at Fort Scott (Kan.)

Community College. It was Hardrick's first day on campus, and his first trip to Kansas.

Not your typical introduction, perhaps, but then again "Yoshi" isn't your typical football player. He proved that later in the day at Fort Scott.

After checking out Hardrick's highlight tape, Kinnie, being the veteran player, invited Hardrick to play in a seven-on-seven scrimmage between returning players and newcomers.

As Kinnie remembers, "When we got out there and started dividing up, Yoshi said, 'I'm not playing with the newcomers. I'm playing with the returners!' And, he did.

"As we were playing this game, he was all over the place. It was crazy. Someone that big shouldn't be that fast. We threw a ball up, and Yoshi jumped up and caught it over some dude.

Yoshi was the biggest, most athletic guy I'd ever seen in my life."

"People talk about swagger in both a positive and negative way," said

Fort Scott coach Jeff Sims. "Yoshi brings the most positive swagger I've ever been around. He does and says things you wish you did as an athlete. That day of the seven-on-seven game, he was lining up at wide receiver, but he wasn't doing it as a joke. He thought he was the best football player on the field. Whatever type of challenge he faces like that, he'll try to back up his actions every day."

Those two stories largely begin the "legend" of Jermarcus "Yoshi" Hardrick. They also sum up the 6-foot-7,

320-pound offensive lineman from Batesville, Miss. Confidence and hard work.

"My goal when I went to Fort Scott was to graduate and make my dreams come true of the Division-I life," said Hardrick. "Now it's scary because I'm here at Nebraska. It doesn't feel real. My goal was to get to D-I and prove the doubters wrong. Now I have that chance."

But there are two other characteristics that stand out immediately with Hardrick: family and trust. Those are what helped lead him to Nebraska.

Kinnie is one of the two main reasons – the other being Lavonte David, who started at Fort Scott the same time as Hardrick – Yoshi is in Lincoln now.

"Everything is black and white regarding trust with Yoshi," said Sims. "If you're in with him, he has your back to the end. Trust is a huge thing to him. So, being able to play with BK and Lavonte is why we encouraged him to go to Nebraska."

"I wanted to be able to play with them again," Hardrick says of his two former Fort Scott teammates. "I know I can trust them. They're like brothers to me."

Batesville, Miss., is likely what you would picture when thinking about small towns in Mississippi. It's a northern Mississippi "frontier" community with a little more than 7,000 people occupying an area of 11.1 square miles.

Although the average household income is \$35,462, approximately 28 percent of city's population falls below the poverty line.

That's where Yoshi Hardrick spent much of his childhood.

His mom, Delores, whom Yoshi says didn't get her driver's license until she was 30 years old, often worked two jobs or at least as many double shifts as she could as an assistant at a nursing home

CALL ME
YOSHI.



as the lone provider for the family. Unknown to Yoshi until he was 15, his biological father was incarcerated when Yoshi was 3 months old.

"My mom's friend (a man named James Calvin) stepped in and helped raise us since I was 3 months old," Yoshi says. "Until I was 15, I thought he was my dad."

When Yoshi was 15, his mom revealed the truth about his biological father. The two met the following year. It didn't change Yoshi.

"I still consider (Calvin) my dad," he said.

Because of Delores' constant work schedule, Yoshi and his brother would see their mom briefly in the morning, sometimes, but then not again until nearly midnight. But she always made sure that she left something for the boys to eat for dinner in their mobile home.

"She'd call us during the day, and then when she got home at night she'd help us with our homework," Yoshi recalls, "but then she'd go to work early the next morning and we wouldn't see her until the next night.

"But watching what she did for us showed me hard work pays off. It don't matter what you gotta do, if you have a job, you do it."

When he wasn't at school, Yoshi spent most of his waking hours with his grandmother, Pearly Mae, who lived in a double-wide trailer in Batesville.

Pearly Mae, whom everyone called "Big Mom" or "Mama," had five sons, five daughters and 20 grandkids. At any given time, most of the 30 were around her home.

"Mama was sick a lot,"

Hardrick said. "We'd see her struggle, but she wanted to do what she could to make us happy. Like, if she had 20 food stamps, she'd split them up with all of us grandkids and make sure we had food. She wouldn't eat.

"She showed us the attitude to wanna work and be better."

Yoshi was in the middle of the pack, age-wise, around Mama's house, but he was always the biggest. Even when he was younger, the other grandkids seemed to look up to him – literally and figuratively.

"I was raised to do the right things," he says without hesitating. "So I was older in their minds, I guess."

By the way, something "Mama" did led to Jermarcus Hardrick receiving the nickname "Yoshi."

See, when Jermarcus was in the third grade, "Mama" signed up her grandkids in the local Boys & Girls Club. Jermarcus' brother, who's two years older, is named Mario. (If you're familiar with the game and cartoon character, you can guess where this is going.)

"When we got off the bus that first day, everyone started calling us Mario and Yoshi. Back then, if anyone called me Yoshi, I was mad. If they didn't call me my name, I thought it was an insult," Hardrick explained. He paused before adding with a laugh, "Now I get mad if they call me Jermarcus."

If you're not familiar with the Mario games, the irony of Yoshi's nickname won't be obvious. In the game and cartoon, Yoshi is a small, green dinosaur. Perhaps the

only characteristic Yoshi and his namesake share is speed.

Growing up as Yoshi did is foreign and borderline incredible to most people. But, he says, he wouldn't change it.

"We didn't have much, but we had a lot of love," he says. "That's all something that I'm glad that happened to me."

Hardrick is quick to point out that even though football is the only sport he's played in an organized league, basketball was his "first love."

He remembers many nights, when he'd go back home from his grandmother's home, he'd stay outside and shoot baskets alone until his mom returned from work. Yes, until nearly midnight.

"When I saw her car start to pull up, I'd run around to the back door and act like I hadn't been out there," he said. "She didn't want me out there that late."

Evidently, Hardrick picked the right sport, though, for his future, because there's a funny thing about the Batesville area. Even though the community is not highly populated and has economic struggles, South Panola High School, where students from four towns, including Batesville, attend, dominates in football. In fact, the 2010 Tigers have been ranked No. 1 in the country throughout the season.

At least five South Panola alums have played in the NFL recently: Deshea Townsend, Dwayne Rudd, Peria Jerry, Ron Shegog and John Jerry.

South Panola went undefeated while Yoshi was



"As we tell kids when we're talking to them about Fort Scott, it's not about the next year and a half. It's about being at the next level. Kids don't grow up wanting to play at Fort Scott or any other junior college. They want to play at places like Nebraska and LSU."

**FORT SCOTT
COACH JEFF SIMS**

there. Each year. His teams won the Mississippi 5A state title. Three times.

However, out of the 24 seniors in Hardrick's class, 13 signed to play in college, but only one qualified. Only three are still playing football. Terrance Pope at Southern

Miss, Darius Barksdale at Jacksonville State, and, of course, Hardrick.

If not for his incredible size, talent and desire to excel, Hardrick easily could have been in the majority from his senior class who didn't play at the next level.

Oftentimes there's a bad stigma placed on college athletes who start at a junior college. They aren't really smart enough to attend — or at least play for — a big school. Or they're bad apples. At least that's the perception. And, in many cases, it's true.

Fort Scott coach Jeff Sims

didn't qualify academically to play Division-I football out of high school. He says he was a couple of core classes short, but didn't realize it until it was too late. So, instead of giving up his dream of playing D-I football, he went the junior-college route.

In Mississippi, junior colleges can "protect" the top 15 players in their region. Then, if one of those 15 players chooses to go to a junior college, the only one he can attend in Mississippi is the one that protected him. Just one problem: Yoshi didn't want to play at the junior college that protected him.

Through a "7 Degrees" type of coaching contact, Hardrick's coach at South Panola, Trey Dickerson, got in touch with Sims at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

"You know, Yoshi just wanted an opportunity to play and to prove to people that he could play at the next level," said Sims, who's been the head coach at Fort Scott since 2007. "He felt the best way to do that was to get away from distractions and temptations in Mississippi.

"That's great for us because, as we tell kids when we're talking to them about Fort Scott, it's not about the next year and a half. It's about being at the next level. Kids don't grow up wanting to play at Fort Scott or any other junior college. They want to play at places like Nebraska and LSU."

Football players around Hardrick's age certainly didn't grow up wanting to play at Fort Scott. The school had won one bowl game during the 36 years before Hardrick's arrival.

"I knew nothing about Fort Scott. I didn't even know Kansas had junior-college football," admits Hardrick, who was going from the Southeast to the Midwest for the first time. "I just knew I was going to better my life and I had to go through whatever it took to do that."

During Hardrick's two seasons

in the "middle of nowhere," as he calls it, he helped lead the Greyhounds to a win in the Heart of Texas Bowl in 2008. Then, last season, Fort Scott was the national runner up, losing the championship game in the closing seconds. The Greyhounds finished the season at 11-1. Along the way, Hardrick became a first-team all-conference selection and an All-Region VI pick.

"In the eight years I've coached junior-college football, the two toughest people I've ever met are Yoshi and David Garrett (who's currently at Kansas State)," Sims said. "When I talk about toughness, I'm not talking about a guy who can punch another guy in the face because of a disagreement. Toughness is not punching a guy in the face. It's taking the challenges. It's going to class when you have no idea what the teacher is talking about, but when the class is over, going to the teacher and asking for help.

"When Yoshi and David showed that type of toughness, they felt they could dominate on the field, and they did."

Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini remembers the first time he saw Yoshi Hardrick. It was while Pelini was at Fort Scott trying to recruit Brandon Kinnie.

"I ran into (Hardrick) in the hallway and just thought, 'Oh, my goodness.' I couldn't believe how big he was," Pelini said. "But I didn't think we could get him because at that time we thought he was headed to another school. He was a talented young man, and we knew we wanted him on our football team."

Pelini's initial thoughts on Hardrick were confirmed when the Nebraska coaches saw Yoshi in the junior-college national championship game last season.

"He was a big, physical, hard-playing guy. His skill was obvious," says Husker offensive coordinator

CALL ME
YOSHI.



points out how junior-college players "think about image and what they're doing. A junior-college player sometimes would rather make a great play and lose a game instead of making an average play that helps win the game."

For the record, Hardrick is one of the student-athletes who

Shawn Watson. “The thing that impressed me most about him, though, was his incredible athleticism. As soon as I saw him, I thought he was a can’t-miss player. Plus he has a great heart; he’s a good kid. That made it even more of a no-brainer, because if you have that skill set but you’re not coachable, you’re going to waste everyone’s time. Yoshi’s a coachable guy.”

Looking back now, Yoshi was a slam dunk for the Nebraska coaching staff. After all, Jeff Sims and Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini have been friends since the two were coaches on Jeff Jamrog’s staff at Minnesota State-Mankato. Not to mention, Kinnie, one of Hardrick’s best friends at Fort Scott, was already a Husker.

Like Kinnie, though, and any player going from junior college to a major university, the biggest challenge is, well, everything. The speed of the game, the playbook, the size of the opponents, the size of the crowds, the size of the campus. And so on.

“I told him it wasn’t going to be easy at all,” Kinnie said. “I told him he’d have to work. The transition from junior college to here is huge. I’m glad I’m here and went through that to show him that it’s going to be alright. He’ll be fine.”

“The transition is huge and we’re asking guys to do it in a hurry,” said Bo Pelini. “I think Yoshi’s handling himself well.”

As with other junior-college transfers, Hardrick acknowledges that the transition to one of the nation’s top college programs has been difficult. He has the physical part down, he says, thanks to Jeff Sims’ coaching

style being similar to that of Pelini. The biggest adjustment has been on the mental side and the “little things.”

“Knowing the purpose of the play, the steps I’m taking and why,” Hardrick says. “And getting to trust my teammates.”

“I think the thing with Yoshi is consistency,” Pelini said. “Learning how to come to practice every day and keep competing every day and keep working to get better every day. If he continues to do that, he’s going to be a good football player. Every now and then he has his ups and downs because he’s in a totally new environment. But the future’s bright for him.

“There’s no doubt that he can be a special player. The problem is that a lot of guys want it right now. They don’t understand it’s a process to get there. He’s developing that understanding. He’s made a lot of progress, but he just has to keep continuing to do so.”

Defensive opponents, before thinking Yoshi Hardrick would be a pushover because he’s not up to big-time football speed yet, you might want to hear Brandon Kinnie’s word of caution.

“He’s making the transition, it’s hard for him, but he’s going to be fine,” Kinnie said. “Once he’s out there regularly, I feel sorry for the guy who has to block him.”

“Yoshi’s a work in progress, but a great work in progress,” said Watson. “It’s a matter of growing up in major-college football. He’s no different than BK (Kinnie) was a year ago. I hold Yoshi accountable, but I keep encouraging him. He just has to trust what we’re

telling him; trust what we’re asking him to do. It has to get into your blood stream. He’ll get there. And when he does get there, he’ll be a force, no doubt.”

Watson then pauses for a second before adding with a grin: “He’s really good.”

Hardrick continues to make the transition on the field and in his heart. At times, he still misses his family. He talks to his “dad,” James Calvin, daily. The same holds true for his mom, who he considers his best friend.

He doesn’t, however, miss life in Batesville. The “negative things and people doing bad,” he says of life back home.

At Nebraska, he’s somewhat escaped his past and has a chance to look ahead to what should be an incredible future.

Besides, he’s happy being a Husker.

“Coming here has made me grow up a lot more, which I needed,” he says. “From being one of the top players in my conference at Fort Scott to now where I’m sharing a spot and competing for a spot has been hard. I just want to go out and do the best I can do. I can only control getting better. Whatever I need to do to make an impact here and then play professionally is what I’ll do. I just want to be the best in everything I do.

“But, I really like it here. I was headed to LSU after Fort Scott, but I’m here now, and that’s all that matters.”

And to think, being “here now” started with a simple — and straightforward — conversation a little more than two years ago in Kansas.

“Every now and then he has his ups and downs because he’s in a totally new environment. But the future’s bright for him.”

**HEAD COACH
BO PELINI**





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

FIRST HALF FINISH

IN A GAME FILLED with big plays and key sequences, Nebraska coach Bo Pelini didn't hesitate in pointing out what he believed was the key to the Cornhuskers' 51-41 victory at Oklahoma State.

Trailing 27-24 in a back-and-forth shootout, Nebraska's defense finally came up with a stop and Niles Paul's 24-yard punt return gave the Huskers possession at their own 34-yard line with 2:15 remaining in the first half. NU's offense didn't squander the opportunity, driving 66 yards on five plays in just 1:20 to take a 31-27 lead on quarterback Taylor Martinez's 9-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Brandon Kinnie with 55 seconds left before halftime.

"I thought that drive before (the end of) the first half, especially knowing that we were going to get the ball to start the second half," Pelini said. "I thought that was really big."

An Oklahoma State personal foul penalty, Martinez's 33-yard completion to Mike McNeill and Rex Burkhead's 15-yard run to the Cowboys' 9 powered the crucial scoring march.

"It was just good because it was momentum,"

said Kinnie, who had three TD receptions in the contest. "It gave us momentum going into the locker room and coming out, so it was good – it was huge."

Nebraska carried its momentum into the second half, outscoring Oklahoma State 20-14 the rest of the way. After allowing 343 first-half yards, the Huskers limited the Cowboys to 142 yards in the second half and OSU's final TD came with just 1:24 to play.

"We settled down, we tackled better – we just played better," Pelini said of Nebraska's second-half improvement. "We made more plays."

For Pelini, it all went back to the final minutes of the first half. He said the defense's key stop and the offense's late scoring drive helped the Huskers "settle down."

"In this game, you've got to pick each other up," Pelini said. "I thought that the times the offense needed picked up in the game, the defense did it and vice versa. It's a team game."

"We said going in, 'We've got to do whatever it takes to win the football game,' and that's what we did today." **N**

by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

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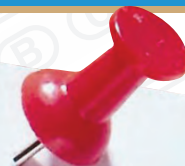
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OCTOBER 30, 2010 HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED 37



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SPECIAL SPECIAL TEAMS

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said special teams played a significant role as the Huskers improved to 3-0 in road games this season.

"We made some big plays on special teams – it really helped us in the football game," Pelini said. "That was a phase of the game we felt we needed to win. You always need to win it on the road. I thought we did a good job there."

First, there was an impressive all-around day from place-kicker/punter Alex Henery, who was 3-for-3 on field-goal attempts, including a 52-yarder. The senior also averaged 50.3 yards on three punts, putting two inside the Oklahoma State 20-yard line, and kept Nebraska's first scoring drive alive by running 27 yards on a fake punt.

Niles Paul, who had a 24-yard punt return that helped Nebraska to a scoring drive late in the first half, earlier gave

the Huskers a huge lift with a 100-yard kickoff return for a TD.

"We knew we were going to have a chance to take one to the house or have a big gain," Paul said. "The hole opened up and I followed Timmy (Marlowe). Thank God, Timmy led and he took on a block for me and just opened it up."

COMING OF AGE

Nebraska's Taylor Martinez showed that he's anything but one-dimensional with his performance in a 51-41 victory at Oklahoma State.

Entering the game as the nation's second-leading rusher among quarterbacks, Martinez completed 23-of-35 pass attempts for 323 yards and a career-high five touchdowns against a Cowboy defense ranked No. 114 nationally against the pass. The redshirt freshman's passing total was the highest

ever for a Cornhusker freshman, breaking Eric Crouch's previous mark of 193 yards passing against Arizona in 1998 Holiday Bowl.

"Taylor Martinez grew up today," Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "That's a good thing. It's a big step in his career. Today you got to see what we see every day in practice. He has a great arm and he can compete with his arm."

"He's just young. He's a redshirt freshman and he's never played at this level until now."

Despite the breakthrough performance, Martinez didn't appear surprised.

"In practice, we always pass the ball like that," Martinez said. "Today we just showed everybody else that we can throw the ball like that instead of dropping back and running. My receivers did a great job of finding me and they made great catches."



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Making amends

One week after struggling with several dropped passes in a 20-13 home loss to Texas, Nebraska's receivers gained a measure of redemption against Oklahoma State.

Husker wide receiver Brandon Kinnie, who had a dropped pass that would've almost certainly gone for a TD against Texas, had three catches – all for scores – and 62 yards against the

Cowboys as he became the first Husker to have three TD receptions in a game since Maurice Purify in 2007 against Colorado.

In addition to a 100-yard kickoff return for a TD in the first quarter, wide receiver Niles Paul had a career-high nine receptions for 131 yards and finished with a career-high 274 all-purpose yards. Paul, who claimed earlier in

the week that he was heckled by fans both in person and on his Facebook page after the Texas loss, said it had been “a very humbling” week.

“I just got back to the basics and I started doing the little things more in practice like staying after and just catching 50 to 100 balls after practice,” Paul said. “It was just getting back to what I used to do.”

HARD TO HOLD

Nebraska's victory certainly didn't come easily against the previously unbeaten Oklahoma State and its high-powered offense. The Cowboys had 343 yards of total offense in the first half, taking its only lead of the game at 27-24 on quarterback Brandon Weeden's 80-yard flea-flicker pass to Justin Blackmon with 5:59 left in the second quarter.

Cowboys running back Kendall Hunter finished with 201 yards rushing, marking the eighth-best single-game total ever allowed by Nebraska to an individual. Hunter had 146 yards of his rushing total

by halftime.

“We gave up a bunch of plays in the first half on some missed tackles, just not playing the ball well down the field,” Nebraska coach Bo Pelini said. “I don't know if it was by design or what, but they threw a lot of under-thrown balls that we just didn't react well to and lost sight of the ball and that's usually one of our strengths.”

Nebraska was able to limit Oklahoma State to 142 yards in the second half. The Cowboys had scored just one TD after halftime until Blackmon caught a 25-yard TD pass from Weeden with 1:24 to play.

ROAD WARRIORS

The win at Oklahoma State marked Nebraska's seventh consecutive road victory dating back to a 16-15 loss at Virginia Tech last season. It was also the first time the Huskers have defeated a top-20 team on its home field since a 27-14 win at No. 2 Washington in 1997.

“I guess it's taking that us-against-the-world attitude,” said Nebraska wide receiver Brandon Kinnie, whose team previously dominated in road wins at Washington (56-21) and Kansas State (48-13). “It's just us sticking together.”

The win was also Nebraska's first victory in Stillwater, Okla., since 1995, snapping a two-game losing streak. The Huskers lost there 24-21 in 2002 and 41-29 in 2006.

“We kind of like it because it fuels us,” said Nebraska wide receiver Niles Paul of playing road games. “(The Oklahoma State fans) were yelling stuff out to everybody and it just kind of fueled us.”

WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska place-kicker Alex Henery made three field goals against Oklahoma State, surpassing Kris Brown's previous school record of 57. Henery has converted 17 consecutive field-goal attempts, tying Brown's school-record of consecutive made field goals.

► Oklahoma State's 41 points ended a streak of 14 straight Nebraska opponents who scored 21 points or fewer, dating back to Texas Tech's 31-point output in 2009. The 41 points were the most by a Huskers' opponent since Oklahoma scored 62 points against them in 2008.

► Nebraska's game captains were junior center Mike Caputo, senior wide receiver Mike McNeill, senior defensive back Eric Hagg and sophomore linebacker Graham Stoddard.



ROY HELU JR MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH TRAFFIC. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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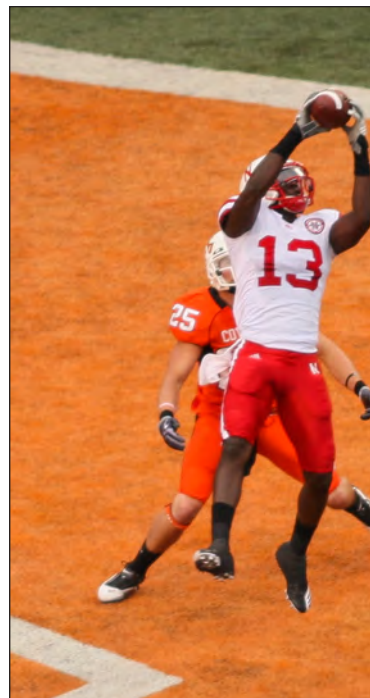
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online at Huskers.com.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Brandon Kinnie hauls in a touchdown pass to put the Huskers up 34-27 in the third quarter. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 2) Taylor Martinez completes a touchdown 41-yard touchdown pass to Kyler Reed, to give the Huskers a 41-27 lead. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 3) P.J. Smith nearly intercepts a pass in the endzone in the first half. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 4) Husker Blackshirts swarm OSU quarterback Brandon Weeden for a sack. 5) Brandon Kinnie breaks a tackle to score one of his three touchdowns. *Photo by Scott Bruhn*

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ALEX HENERY

Once Alex Henery picked up the first down on his fake-punt-and-run the first time Nebraska had the ball, special teams coach John Papuchis would have preferred he go down to the ground, and certainly as opposed to cutting back across the field for what was a 27-yard gain.

"When he cut back across the field, I got a little bit nervous because as talented as he is, he's not known for his running-back ability," said Papuchis.

"He's a good athlete, and I don't want to limit his athletic ability, but when you start cutting across the field, you open yourself up for a big hit. And he's way more valuable for us to kick field goals and punt the ball than he is to run for extra yardage after he gets the first down."

Henery made the decision to keep the ball, on fourth-and-8 at the Nebraska 22-yard line.

"There was a certain look we wanted to see against the roll-out

punt. Alex knows when he's rolling out that someone has to force him to kick it. And no one forced the edge. So he just kept going with it. He made a really heads-up play and then did a heck of a job with it," Papuchis said.

As for his value kicking and punting, that's long been established. This time he kicked three field goals and averaged 50.3 yards on three punts, downing two inside the 20.

RUSHING

With Taylor Martinez up and running, and Alex Henery chipping in, Nebraska's ground game was productive against a defense focused on stopping it by crowding the line of scrimmage.

A-

PASSING

So, yes, Taylor Martinez can sling it, as offensive coordinator Shawn Watson has said he could. "You take what's there," said Bo Pelini. And the pass was there, with receivers holding onto the ball.

A

RUSHING DEFENSE

Only seven other players have rushed for 200 yards against Nebraska, so Kendall Hunter's performance probably said more about his ability than about the Blackshirts' inability to stop him, though missed tackles are still a concern.

C

PASSING DEFENSE

The grade might be a bit harsh, especially given the play in the second half and the fact that Nebraska won. But two receivers over 100 yards is a problem, regardless of how talented they might be.

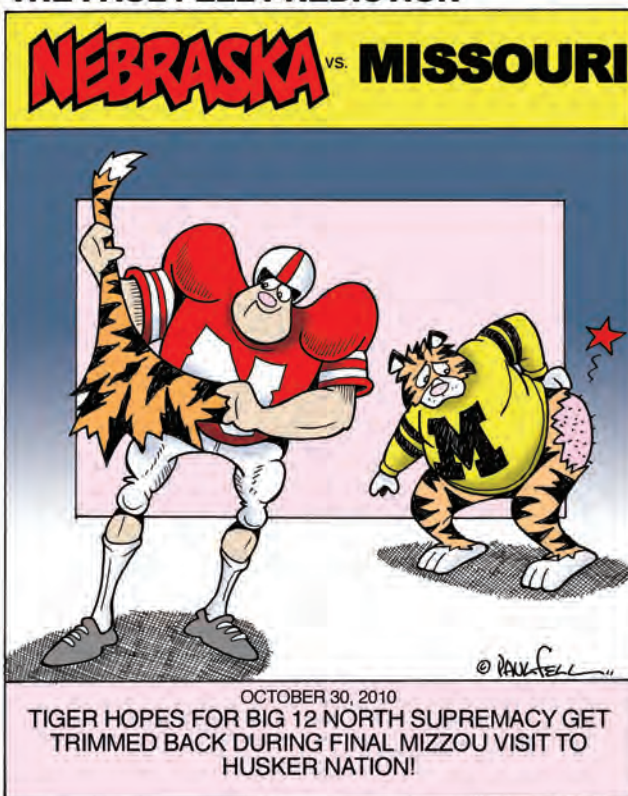
C

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

"That was a phase of the game we needed to win," Bo Pelini said. Oklahoma State played well. But the Huskers played better. "You always have to do that on the road," Pelini said.

A

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



Husker Report Card

QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock
(38-18, 4-4)



Mike Babcock
(42-14, 4-4)



Terry Douglass
(42-14, 4-4)



Kevin Kugler
(40-16, 5-3)



Sean Callahan
(39-17, 4-4)



Matt Davison
(42-14, 4-4)

	Aaron Babcock (38-18, 4-4)	Mike Babcock (42-14, 4-4)	Terry Douglass (42-14, 4-4)	Kevin Kugler (40-16, 5-3)	Sean Callahan (39-17, 4-4)	Matt Davison (42-14, 4-4)
Missouri at Nebraska	NU 23-20	NU 35-17	NU 31-20	NU 38-28	NU 38-27	NU 27-17
Kansas at Iowa State	ISU 42-10	ISU 38-13	ISU 27-20	ISU 41-17	ISU 31-28	ISU 34-13
Texas Tech at Texas A&M	A&M 28-27	A&M 24-21	A&M 35-24	A&M 35-24	A&M 41-35	A&M 31-21
Oklahoma State at Kansas State	OSU 42-35	OSU 42-28	OSU 41-27	OSU 41-24	OSU 45-31	OSU 35-17
Baylor at Texas	BU 23-14	UT 27-17	UT 44-17	UT 21-17	UT 27-10	UT 31-13
Colorado at Oklahoma	OU 30-16	OU 45-14	OU 48-7	OU 45-10	OU 38-20	OU 42-17
Stanford at Washington	STAN 35-33	STAN 35-31	STAN 37-28	STAN 31-21	STAN 45-35	STAN 31-27
Michigan State at Iowa	IOWA 20-17	IOWA 21-15	IOWA 20-14	MSU 38-28	IOWA 28-23	IOWA 17-10

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 23, 2010

Boone Pickens Stadium • Stillwater, Okla.

Attendance: 55,935

	1	2	3	4	F
NEBRASKA	14	17	10	10	51
OKLAHOMA STATE	13	14	7	7	41

NU	First Quarter Kinnie, Brandon 45 yd pass - 11:20 Drive: 7 plays 80 yds 2:29	NU	OSU
OSU	Dan Bailey 31 Yd field goal - 9:37 Drive: 7 plays 46 yds 1:43	7	3
OSU	Dan Bailey 44 Yd field goal - 6:40 Drive: 5 plays 7 yds 1:57	7	6
NU	Paul, Niles 100 yd kickoff return - 6:27 Drive: 1 plays 100 yds	14	6
OSU	Smith, Jeremy 1 yd run - 2:39 Drive: 11 plays 76 yds 3:48	14	13
NU	Second Quarter Legate, Tyler 1 yd pass - 14:07 Drive: 9 plays 58 yds 3:32	21	13
OSU	Hunter, Kendall 8 yd run 7:58 Drive: 8 plays 84 yds 3:19	21	20
NU	Henery, Alex 52 yd field goal 6:11 Drive: 5 plays 31 yds 1:47	24	20
OSU	Blackmon, J. 80 yd pass 5:59 Drive: 1 plays 80 yds 0:12	24	27
NU	Kinnie, Brandon 9 yd pass 0:55 Drive: 5 plays 66 yds 1:20	31	27
NU	Third Quarter Henery, Alex 32 yd field goal 10:57 Drive: 10 plays 65 yds 4:03	34	27
NU	Reed, Kyler 41 yd pass 6:35 Drive: 7 plays 74 yds 3:09	41	27
OSU	Hunter, Kendall 1 yd run 3:29 Drive: 8 plays 67 yds 3:06	41	34
NU	Fourth Quarter Henery, Alex 45 yd field goal 11:39 Drive: 9 plays 40 yds 3:24	44	34
NU	Kinnie, Brandon 8 yd pass 4:29 Drive: 12 plays 81 yds 6:23	51	34
OSU	Blackmon, J. 25 yd pass 1:24 Drive: 9 plays 63 yds 3:05	51	41

TEAM STATS

	NU	OSU
Total First Downs	25	22
Rushing	11	9
Passing	12	12
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Attempts	44	36
Yards Gained Rushing	241	227
Yards Lost Rushing	24	15
Net Yards Rushing	217	212
Net Yards Passing	323	283
Passes Attempted	35	35
Passes Completed	23	18
Had Intercepted	0	1
Percent Completion	65.7%	51.4%
Yards per Attempt	9.2	8.1
Yards per Completion	14.0	15.7
Total Offensive Plays	79	71
Total Net Yards	540	495
Avg. Gain Per Play	6.8	7.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties: No-Yards	7-55	8-84
Punts: No-Yards	3-151	5-302
Avg. Per Punt	50.3	60.4
Avg. Net Punt	46.0	51.6
Punt Returns: No-Yards	1-24	2-13
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	4-144	6-164
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	34:45	25:15
Third-Down Conversions	8-18	3-13
Percentage	44.4%	23.1%
Fourth-Down Conversions	2-2	2-3
Percentage	100.0%	66.7%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-10	1-7

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Martinez.	19	130	18	112	5.9	0	26
Helu Jr.	12	42	0	42	3.5	0	10
Burkhead	10	42	1	41	4.1	0	15
Henery	1	27	0	27	27.0	0	27
TEAM	2	0	5	-5	-2.5	0	0
TOTAL	44	241	24	217	4.9	0	27

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	35	23	65.7	0	323	5	45

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	9	131	0	25
McNeill	5	61	0	33
Kinnie	3	62	3	45
Reed	2	58	1	41
Helu Jr.	2	10	0	7
Legate	1	1	1	1
Burkhead	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	23	323	5	45

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	2	119	1	100
Marlowe	1	21	0	21
Cotton	1	4	0	4
TOTAL	4	144	1	100

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	1	24	0	24

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Henery	3	50.3	58	0	0	1	2

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	3	3	52	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Gomes	8	2	10	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
David	8	0	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Hagg	7	1	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	5	1	6	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Crick	2	2	4	1-10	1-10	0	0	0
West	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Martin	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarse	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Compton	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamura	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Steinkuler	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Cassidy	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dean	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Kunalic	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Ankrah	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

OKLAHOMA STATE

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Hunter	26	201	0	201	7.7	2	29
Randle	5	22	0	22	4.4	0	13
Smith	3	4	0	4	1.3	1	2
TEAM	1	0	5	-5	-5	0	0
Weeden	1	0	10	-10	-10	0	0
TOTAL	36	227	15	212	5.9	3	29

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Weeden	35	18	51.4	1	283	2	80

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Cooper	9	103	0	23
Blackmon	5	157	2	80
Bowling	2	12	0	7
Youman	1	10	0	10
Randle	1	1	0	1
TOTAL	18	283	2	80

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Randle	5	140	0	40
Thomas	1	24	0	24
TOTAL	6	164	0	40

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Cooper	2	13	0	13

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Sharp	5	60.4	78	1	0	2	1

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Bailey	2	2	44	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	T	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Brown	7	0	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Martin	7	0	7	0-0	0-0	3	0	0
McGee	7	0	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thomas, Jo.	6	1	7	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Lemon	5	2	7	1-4	0-0	0	1	0
Thomas, Ja	5	0	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Lewis	4	1	5	2-5	0-0	0	0	0
Jones	4	0	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blatnick	3	0	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gent	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Chinasa	2	0	2	1-7	1.0-7	1	0	0
Hart	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Mitchell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cooper	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jarka	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0



Missouri Tigers

High-powered Tiger offense rolls into Lincoln for final time in conference series history | JERRY TRICKIE

Missouri opened the season with six consecutive wins to earn a Top-20 ranking behind a balanced attack. The

Tigers are in the top 25 for passing and scoring offense while featuring one of the country's top defenses. Through Oct.

16, MU ranked second in scoring defense (10.8 ppg), fourth in sacks (3.3 spg) and 29th in rush defense (117.2 ypg).



Blaine Gabbert is the face of the Missouri offense as he accounted for 1,565 of the Tigers' 2,488 total offense yards through six games. The Ballwin, Mo., native has more than 5,200 career-passing yards with 34 passing TDs against 12 INTs midway through his junior year.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Gary Pinkel is in his 10th year on the Missouri sideline and 20th season as

a head coach. The Tiger mentor has won more than 145 career games, including nearly 75 with MU. He enters the match-up in Lincoln with a 4-5 mark vs. Nebraska.

KNOW YOUR FOE



T.J. Moe, So., WR:

Moe ranks ninth nationally in receiving yards and joins teammate Michael Egnew among the top 10 for receptions per game.



Grant Ressel, Jr., PK:

Ressel ranks among the top 40 scorers nationally. He hit 10-of-11 field-goal attempts to open the year and 23-of-25 PATs.

Zaviar Gooden, So., LB: Behind



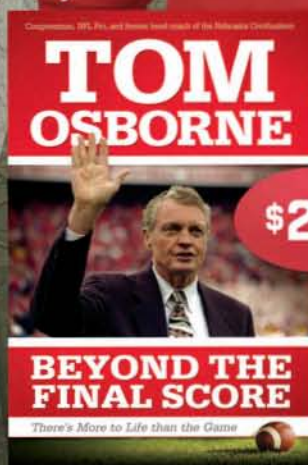
Gooden's 40 tackles, three TFLs and two fumble recoveries, MU ranked second nationally in scoring defense through six games.

2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	vs. Illinois, W, 23-13
9/11	McNeese State, W, 50-6
9/18	San Diego State, W, 27-24
9/25	vs. Miami (Ohio), W, 51-13
10/9	vs. Colorado, W, 26-0
10/16	at Texas A&M, W, 30-9
10/23	Oklahoma, W, 36-21
10/30	at Nebraska, TBA
11/6	at Texas Tech, TBA
11/13	Kansas State, TBA
11/20	at Iowa State, TBA
11/27	vs. Kansas, 11:30 a.m.

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CATCHING UP WITH

Bob Newton

STILL INSPIRING PEOPLE 40 YEARS AFTER NU'S FIRST TITLE

HE'S SPOKEN IN front of a roomful of NFL players, including the legendary Dick Butkus. He's addressed Congress on a subject he knows as well as anyone. And last August, Tom Osborne and Bo Pelini both asked him to talk to Nebraska's football team.

Forty years after his All-America season in Nebraska's offensive line, which culminated in the Huskers' first national championship, Robert "Bob" Newton is as relevant as ever. He is also as quiet, humble and unassuming as ever, just like Osborne, a man he considers to be a personal and spiritual mentor.

Newton, you see, has one of the most important jobs in the world. He is the lead counselor for the extended care program at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He's been there 23 years and is effective both as a counselor and a motivational speaker because he's been where others are and wants to help all of them find a better life.

In 1983, after 11 years in the NFL – five with the Chicago Bears and six with the Seattle Seahawks – Newton was ready to come clean from his alcohol and drug use, so he wrote a letter to Osborne.

"He wrote me back immediately and told me I was making the right decision to seek help and offered to help me get through it," Newton said last weekend when he flew from his native California to join his Husker teammates at their 40-year national championship anniversary celebration.

Osborne offered Newton a two-pronged opportunity – return to Lincoln, and he could 1) join the Nebraska coaching staff as a graduate assistant and help with the offensive line; and 2) return to class and get the degree he didn't get when he went to the NFL.

"Coach Osborne has been a major influence in my life," Newton said. "He

recruited me, taught me the value of education and inspired me to finish, even after a 13-year absence."

Because of Osborne, Newton earned his bachelor's and his master's degrees and became director of development at the Betty Ford Center before deciding to concentrate on teaching others about substance abuse with a moving personal account of how he got through the rigorous 12-step process to recovery.

Last August, Newton told Husker players how easy it is for alcohol to "sneak up on you" and how quickly "one night of drinking can destroy your life."

At Nebraska, Newton said, "life

"COACH OSBORNE HAS BEEN A MAJOR INFLUENCE IN MY LIFE," NEWTON SAID. "HE RECRUITED ME, TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF EDUCATION AND INSPIRED ME TO FINISH, EVEN AFTER A 13-YEAR ABSENCE."

skills are important, and today's student-athletes know better."

But it never hurts to remind them what can happen when they don't make the right choices.

by Randy York

IN THE RedZone

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



David on pace for tackle record

No sooner had Lavonte David earned a Blackshirt than the shoulders of the black practice jersey were splotted with red, evidence of his tackling teammates during practice.

“When you play linebacker, you have to hit everybody, every play,” said David, who had been credited with 19 tackles

the previous game against South Dakota State.

He followed with 12 tackles against Kansas State and 10 tackles against Texas, bringing his season’s total to 70. At the midway point in the regular season, he was about halfway to the school single-season record. In fact, counting a bowl

game as well as the possibility of playing in the Big 12 championship game, David was on pace to break the record set by Barrett Ruud in 2003.

Teammate Alonzo Whaley hasn't been surprised by David's totals. "He was quiet," Whaley said of his initial impression of David, who also "was a playmaker. He got out. He played hard. He busted it every single play. He was 100 miles per hour. That's what you need as a linebacker.

"You could see it right away. The quietness didn't bother me at all because that's how guys are when they come. They get a feel for people. They're quiet. They see who's who and what's what. But at the same time, it didn't stop him from working. He was still (going) 100 miles per hour."

David learned his work ethic at Miami's Northwestern High School. He learned never to take a day off. Once, he "came out at practice lazy and just got hit in the mouth," he said.

In high school, he and his buddies were "big shots," said David. "So we'd come out and be lazy sometimes. But we had a target on our backs, so we still had to come hard."

Except for that one day when he didn't and paid the price.

"I was like, 'I gotta pick it up,' " he said. "So I try to go hard every practice."

Despite having 19 tackles against South Dakota State, David was far from perfect, according to coach Bo Pelini. And David agreed. "I was surprised," he said of the tackle total. "It all comes from effort, but at the same time, I had a lot of miscues and stuff like that. I don't too much worry about that (numbers). I just try to worry about being perfect on my assignments and what I do.

"Nineteen tackles is just a statistic. It's a good thing, but you gotta worry about what you gotta do."



Top 10 Season Tacklers (since 1946)

Barrett Ruud, LB (2003)	149
Ruud, LB (2004)	143
Lee Kunz, LB (1977)	141
Jerry Murtaugh, LB (1970)	132
Clete Pillen, LB (1976)	129
Demorrio Williams, LB (2003)	128
Mike Knox, LB (1983)	125
Pillen, LB (1975)	125
Kunz, LB (1978)	120
Wayne Meylan, MG (1967)	119



Husker Leading Tacklers (since 2000)

2009 – Ndamukong Suh, DT . . . 83 (52)	
2008 – Suh, DT	76 (39)
2007 – Steve Octavian, LB . . . 92 (56)	
2006 – Stewart Bradley, LB . . . 76 (41)	
2005 – Corey McKeon, LB . . . 98 (61)	
2004 – Barrett Ruud, LB	143 (86)
2003 – Ruud, LB	149 (78)
2002 – Demorrio Williams, LB . . 92 (38)	
2001 – Jamie Burrow, LB	84 (27)
2000 – Carlos Polk, LB	90 (40)

Recruits impressed from visit

Biggest recruiting weekend of the year ends on a positive note, despite loss to Texas | SEAN STEVENS



LAKE KOA KA'AI

Nebraska's game with Texas didn't go quite as the Huskers had planned on the field, however things appear to have been positive on the recruiting front. NU hosted a number of highly-ranked recruits, and all seemed to come away impressed.

Defensive end **LAKE KOA KA'AI** (6-4, 235) of Honolulu, Hawaii, came to Lincoln planning to take all five of his visits, but left so impressed that he had changed his mind after previously visiting top-ranked Oregon.

"Everything was wonderful. I think my dad was in awe most of the time. Both Nebraska and Oregon were great visits, but Nebraska was in a

whole other league."

Fellow defensive end targets **JAMES ADEYANJU** (6-2, 250) of Chicago, Ill., and DeVante Wilson (6-4, 230) of Corona, Calif., were also excited after the trip.

There were also a number of committed prospects making official visits, including quarterback **JAMAL TURNER** (6-1, 173) of Arlington, Texas, and cornerback **TEVIN MITCHELL** (6-0, 175) of Mansfield, Texas. The loss to Texas did nothing to deter them from their decisions. Mitchell summed it up for both top-ranked Texans.

"This commitment, one I'm glad that I made

it here, actually being on the campus is just . . . I'm just glad I committed to a good school like Nebraska, because the academics . . . they have a good business school. This campus is great."

CHANGE OF PLANS

While the Texas game provided a big recruiting weekend for Nebraska, two of the Huskers' top prospects cancelled official visits during the week leading up to the game. Defensive back **CHARLES JACKSON** (5-11, 180) of Klein, Texas, and defensive tackle **TODD PEAT, JR.** (6-3, 300) of Tempe, Ariz., both had a change of plans.

Jackson has narrowed his choices to Nebraska and Arkansas. While the Razorbacks currently lead, Jackson's relationship with teammate and NU linebacker commitment **DAVID SANTOS** (6-0, 193) will help the Huskers' cause. The two players will visit Lincoln together for the Missouri game Oct. 30.

Peat has yet to set a date for his trip but said it will be sometime after his season ends.

COMMIT Q&A



DAVID SANTOS

At a glance: Klein, Texas, Collins High linebacker David Santos is one of three commits in Nebraska's class of 2011 from Texas. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Santos for this week's Commit Spotlight.

SEAN CALLAHAN: How's a Texas guy end up at Nebraska?

SANTOS: Texas people love Texas and they love everything about it. If you leave, it's like you are leaving the earth or dying, but they are happy for me. They still try to keep me around, but it's not really that bad.

CALLAHAN: What was it like for you leading up to the Texas-Nebraska game?

SANTOS: Most of my coaches talked to me about it. My running backs coach went to Texas and messed with me about it. All my friends are a bunch of Texas fans, but it's all right, I don't pay much attention to them.

CALLAHAN: What's your favorite movie?

SANTOS: I don't really have a favorite movie, but I'd go with "Friday Night Lights" if I had to go with one.

CALLAHAN: Name me one show you watch on TV every week?

SANTOS: I try and watch "24" with my dad sometimes. My dad loves that show, and I'll sit down and watch it with him.

CALLAHAN: Who's your favorite linebacker to watch in the NFL?

SANTOS: Ray Lewis. I like his intensity. He's a big guy and a really good linebacker. A lot of kids want to be like Ray Lewis, and he's probably my favorite player.

CALLAHAN: What's one hidden talent you have not related to football?

SANTOS: I'm a really good ping pong player. I think I might be a little bit better than Forrest Gump.

2011 Husker Commit List

- ★★ **AARYN BOUZOS**, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ **DANIEL DAVIE**, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ **RYAN KLACHKO**, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ **TEVIN MITCHEL**, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ **TYLER MOORE**, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ **RYNE REEVES**, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ **NIKLAS SADE**, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ **DAVID SANTOS**, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- NR **DAIMION STAFFORD**, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ **BUBBA STARLING**, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ **ZACH STERUP**, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ **JAMAL TURNER**, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

James Adeyanju

DE, 6-2, 250
Chicago, Ill.

Jonathan Aiken

CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla.

Tariq Allen

WR, 6-2, 186
Weston, Mass.

Antoine Arnold

WR, 6-3, 180
Temecula, Calif.

Darien Bryant

TE, 6-4, 215
Pickerington, Ohio

Jeremy Cash

S, 6-1, 185
Plantation, Fla.

Curt Evans

WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla.

Christian French

Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA

Aaron Green

RB, 5-10, 191
San Antonio, TX

Quentin Griffin

DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La.

Jalen Grimbale

DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev.

Jesse Hayes

DE, 6-4, 230
Cincinnati, Ohio

Christian Heyward

DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif.

Cyrus Hobbi

OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Charles Jackson

CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas

Mickey Johnson

DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La.

Lake Koa-Kaiai

DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii

Keith Lewis

LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla.

Wayne Lyons

Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

*Dexter Moody

LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Givens Mordi Price

OL, 6-4, 278
Houston, Texas

*Malcolm Moulton

WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Patrick Onwuasor

WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif.

Todd Peat, Jr.

DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz.

Miles Shuler

WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ

Joel Willis

Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA

DeVante Wilson

DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif.

* Junior College prospect

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

How bad does a loss hurt on recruiting weekend?

FOUR YEARS AGO when I was working in Brentwood, Tenn., at Rivals.com headquarters as the Texas/Big 12 recruiting analyst, we did a “round table” feature where each of us discussed the pros and cons of schools loading up official visitors for the biggest game of the year.

For instance, if your program was ranked in the Top 10 and another highly ranked team was coming to town that Saturday, was it a great idea to bring in a boat load of recruits to see it in person? Would the atmosphere outweigh a possible loss? Was the risk worth the reward in that regard?

Following the Huskers’ loss to Texas, I thought this was a good question again.

Heading into the game, I’d say one of every five questions I answered about the game was if having your biggest list of visitors for this particular contest was a good idea.

After the game, obviously there were more questions and this time centered on whether the 20-13 loss would hurt the Huskers with these visitors.

I feel the same way I did before the game: A loss isn’t detrimental to a visit weekend. It doesn’t help, but it’s not catastrophic.

I still believe that.

Though the Husker coaching staff

didn’t add any new commits by Sunday of the visit weekend, they put themselves in a great position because of what they knew about this weekend and what it would showcase.

You guessed it: the atmosphere in Memorial Stadium and around Lincoln on Saturday would be something many of these recruits have never seen.

After talking with just about every visitor on campus, the coaches were right.

I had to really pull teeth with some visitors to get their feelings on the game itself. Sure, some recruits don’t want to go on about the loss, but I got the impression it was secondary on their list of what they’ll remember about this visit.

What did they talk about?

The fans. The Sea of Red. Small children around the stadium stopping them and requesting an autograph. Fans thanking them for coming to the game. How loud the crowd was for the big game.

Would a win have helped? Absolutely. I mean, it can’t hurt. Maybe a win pushes the emotion of the trip up a notch. But could it have pushed a prospect into a commitment? On the other hand, we’ve seen recruits commit after a loss as well.

In all reality, many of these visitors weren’t planning to commit this weekend

any way. Many had other trips in mind. They still do.

But you have to put yourself into the recruit’s mind for a moment. You find it hard to believe he’s going to write a team off, ranked in the top 25 because the team lost a game by seven points. He usually has a long list of factors that goes much deeper than a seven-point loss that particular afternoon.

What recruits are going to remember is the Tunnel Walk. Yes, that was brought up more than once to me by several of the visitors. They’re going to remember the fan base, the hospitality, how the coaches reacted to the loss, and the people around the program that they got to meet.

Not to mention, the current commits made it clear they were ready to get to Lincoln as fast as possible so they could help. They saw what Bo Pelini has been preaching about constant competition is true. They have the opportunity to earn a spot and take the reins.

The big weekend was still big, regardless of the outcome. A win would have helped, but maybe the loss wasn’t as bad for recruiting as some would like to think. Maybe it inspired the recruits and made them realize how important they are to the next chapter of this program heading into its first year of the Big Ten. **N**

Anderson adjusts to changing role

Two-time All-American Anderson adjusts to the addition of a second setter | BOB HAMAR



SYDNEY ANDERSON

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SYDNEY ANDERSON DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT AT FIRST. HERE SHE WAS, A CAPTAIN AND A TWO-TIME

All-America setter at Nebraska, and the Huskers were looking at bringing in another setter.

"My first response was kind of confused," Anderson said. "I was upset maybe a little bit in that maybe part of my role would be taken away."

But Nebraska coach John Cook wanted to take full advantage of the talent

he had on hand. He was going to have two 6-foot-5 left-handed right side hitters on the squad, and he wanted to build the offense around them.

To do that, he needed another setter. It just so happened that the setter he found was his daughter, Lauren, who was the AVCA national freshman of the year at UCLA

before deciding to transfer to Nebraska.

It didn't take Anderson long to see what Lauren Cook could do for the Huskers.

"Once Lauren showed up here, there was a connection when she was out on the court that I couldn't give," Anderson said in August at the team's media day. "She is going to be the type of player who brings so much to this team. I'm excited and I know this team is excited for this new system we're running. I wouldn't have it any other way."

It's worked out pretty well for the Huskers so far. NU won 17 of its first 18 matches and appeared to be in the driver's seat for a Big 12 championship in its last year in the conference before joining the Big Ten in 2011.

John Cook admitted he was concerned with how Anderson would react to bringing another setter into the mix.

"It's college sports," he said. "You deal with it. It is what it is. We needed another setter. It's just like bringing in a middle or an outside. It's no different. But there is an adjustment period you go through, and Sydney is working through it and trying to be a great player in the role she has."

Anderson said being on



BALANCED OFFENSE

Redshirted freshman middle blocker Hayley Thrasher (pictured) is sitting out this year after having shoulder surgery in the spring.

Coach John Cook said a healthy Thrasher could have had an impact this season. He compares her to former Husker All-American Melissa Elmer.

"I think she would be playing a lot," Cook said. "She was having a really good spring. We just felt like physically she's a really gifted middle blocker. She reminds me a lot of Elmer. Her size, her hands, her geometry is a lot like Elmer. Her arm swing was getting better. I thought she had a chance to have a major impact this year before she got injured."

Cook said they won't really know how Thrasher has recovered from the surgery until she goes full-speed next fall, but she will do some limited drills in the spring.

PHILLY FANATICS

Cook said he follows the Philadelphia Phillies all year long with Hannah Werth's older brother Jayson as a starting outfielder. However, Hannah isn't quite as up on baseball.

"I talked to Hannah about it," he said. "She's pretty oblivious to it. She's like, 'Oh, oh. What happened?'" So there's not a lot of dialog with Hannah about baseball. Some of our manager guys are baseball fans, so we have a little baseball talk in the office, just for the boys."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

FRI, SEP 3	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 4	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 4	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 9	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	W, 3-1
SAT, OCT 2	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
WED, OCT 6	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 9	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE * MANHATTAN, KAN.		W, 3-0
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	8 P.M.
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, NOV 3	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	6:30 P.M.
SAT, NOV 6	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA

NCAA TOURNAMENT

FRI, DEC 3-4	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS		TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

the court just half the time isn't easy. On the other hand, standing on the sidelines can be beneficial at times. That's something back-up setter Brigitte Root has taught Anderson.

"Brigitte Root has helped me immensely in that way," Anderson said. "It's almost a mental break that I get. I get to come out and observe what's going on out there instead of trying to fix it on the court."

Part of the challenge of a two-setter offense is for the hitters to adjust to two different setters.

"Lauren and I are two completely different types of players," Anderson said. "She's on the floor every play. She's excited. She's going to go fire that ball. I'm more conservative. She makes risky plays and she's great at it. I think some of our players need that, and that's what she can give to this team."

And that's what it's all about. Sure, Anderson wouldn't mind playing all six rotations like she did the first two years, but the 2010 Huskers needed her to sacrifice some playing time.

"It is what this team needs to be successful and make it to the final four," Anderson said. "It's still taking some getting used to, but I think any setter would say that. I think Lauren is still getting used to it as well."

John Cook likes the balance the two-setter offense has given the

Huskers in all six rotations, but he said Anderson is still a bit hesitant at times.

"I don't think Sydney is at the level she needs to be at," he said. "She knows that, and we're working hard to get her to have more of an impact when she's out there with her serving, her defense and her setting. She's had some good matches, but the consistency level needs to improve."

Anderson has just a couple more months before her college volleyball career draws to a close. That doesn't mean she's nearly done with the sport. After graduating, she plans to head for California to train with the U.S. National Team.

"I want to be playing volleyball until I can't," Anderson said. "That's my life. That's my passion. It's volleyball all the way. Overseas, national team, I'm going to go as far as I can."

But for now, it's all about Husker volleyball. Anderson may not be playing all six rotations, but she understands it's all about winning that final match of the post season.

"You have to look at the big picture and not just at what's happening right now," Cook said. "She's done all she can do. She's pretty much accomplished everything but win a national championship. We came close in '08. Last year we got to a regional final, so you just have to go for it."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER



TONEY MCCRAY

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

SADLER BECOMING A ZONE MAN?

Doc Sadler has been a long-time coaching disciple of hard-nosed, gritty, man-to-man defense.

Mention a zone defense and Sadler might break out in a cold sweat or develop a rash.

Well, at least that's

been the case in recent seasons.

But even Sadler, entering his fifth season as the Nebraska men's basketball coach, is willing to concede that his bigger, longer lineup may be better suited for zone defense this season.

"How much? I would say that there would be

very few games that we don't play some," Sadler said.

Nebraska experimented with some zone defense later last season, but Sadler said fans will see more of it earlier in the year.

The main reason is Nebraska's bigger lineup. The Huskers have 6-foot-11 Brian Diaz,

HUSKERS ON TV

Nebraska has finalized its Fox Sports television schedule for the 2010-11 men's basketball season.

Seven games will be carried on Fox Sports Midwest: South Dakota, Nov. 12; USC, Nov. 27; Creighton, Dec. 5; TCU, Dec. 11; Iowa State, Jan. 8; at Missouri, Jan. 12; and Oklahoma State, Feb. 12.

Nebraska will play a minimum of 20 times on television this season, including the Big 12's contract with ESPN and the earlier announcement of television for the Puerto Rico Tip-Off next month.

SOCCER

Sophomore Morgan Marlborough was named Big 12 Conference player of the week for the fifth time in her career. The most-ever player-of-the-week awards by a Nebraska player is six, by Brittany Timko (2003-06).

Marlborough won the honor after scoring in her eighth-straight match. Her two goals lifted Nebraska to a 4-1 victory over Iowa State. She also had an assist against the Cyclones, after having back-to-back assists in a come-from-behind victory over Missouri.

Marlborough is among the nation's scoring leaders with 38 points on 15 goals and eight assists.

6-10 Brandon Ubel, 6-10 Christopher Niemann and 6-10 Andre Almeida Even 6-6 guard Toney McCray has the long arms that coaches love to see in a zone defense.

"In fact, we're going to try to play it like Syracuse has," Sadler said, referring to Jim Boeheim's famous 2-3 match-up zone defense. "I think you'll see McCray up front of it, and you can see Diaz and Ubel on the wings, and one of those big guys, Christopher or Andre or somebody in the middle.

"Length is something that we have now, and I think you've got some guys like Brandon Ubel who can play out on the perimeter, also, because he can really shoot the ball."

Nebraska switched to a zone defense during one of its exhibition games in the Bahamas in August, and it led to a lopsided scoring run for the Huskers in the second half

"They couldn't figure it out. They couldn't score," Ubel said. "We definitely have a lot of length, that's for sure, on that zone. I think at one point, (Diaz) was out on the wing, and he just takes up the 3-point line to the lane.

"I don't know how much we'll use it, but when we do, it was

definitely effective."

KELLY HONORED

Senior Dominique Kelley earned honorable mention honors on the Big 12 Conference coaches' pre-season women's basketball team.

Kelley, a 5-7 guard from Lincoln (Neb.) Northeast High School, was one of 13 players to receive at least one vote from Big 12 coaches. She was honorable mention All-Big 12 after her junior season, when she averaged 12.6 points and 3.9 rebounds in helping the Huskers to 32-2 overall record.

Kelley has started 98 consecutive games in

her first three seasons at Nebraska, averaging 9.6 points and 3.3 rebounds per game in her career. She needs just 62 points to become the 26th player in school history to reach 1,000 career points.

BASEBALL

Highly-touted freshman Logan Ehlers rebounded from a tough start and with a solid showing in his second outing during the Nebraska baseball team's annual Red-White fall series.

The left-handed pitcher from Nebraska City struck out 10 in six innings while allowing one run and four hits for the Red team. Of

his 10 strikeouts, eight came in the first three innings. The run was unearned.

In his first start of the series, Ehlers lasted only 2/3 of an inning.

Kurt Farmer was the Red team's top hitter for the series, going 6-for-12, while Chad Christensen was 5-for-15 for the Reds. Cory Burleson went 4-for-8 and was the White team's top hitter.

The White team won the first two games of the series, and the Reds forced a 2-2 tie in the finale.

BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Nebraska will face some early challenges on its



CHRIS NIEMANN

2011 baseball schedule. In March alone, the Huskers will host 2010 College World Series runner-up UCLA and 2008 College World Series champion Fresno State.

That highlights a 32-game home schedule that includes 16 games against teams that advanced to last season's NCAA Tournament.

Nebraska opens the season on Feb. 18 with four games at the Texas State Tournament in San Marcos, Texas. In addition to facing the host Bobcats, the Huskers will face Washington, Missouri State and Air Force before returning the next week to

Huntsville, Texas, for four non-conference games at Sam Houston State.

The Huskers' first home game is March 2 against Nebraska-Kearney.



**STEFFI
NEISEN**

WOMEN'S GOLF

Steffi Neisen matched her career best with a final-round 73 to tie for ninth at the Dale McNamara Invitational in Owasso, Okla.

Neisen, a true freshman from New Prague, Minn., closed the three-day tournament with a career-best 223 (77-73-73) over three rounds on the par-72, 6,450-yard layout at the Patriot Golf Club to produce her first career top-10 finish.

Neisen's 73 matched Kennesaw State's Patricia Arana for the fifth-best round of the day among the 90 golfers in the tournament field.

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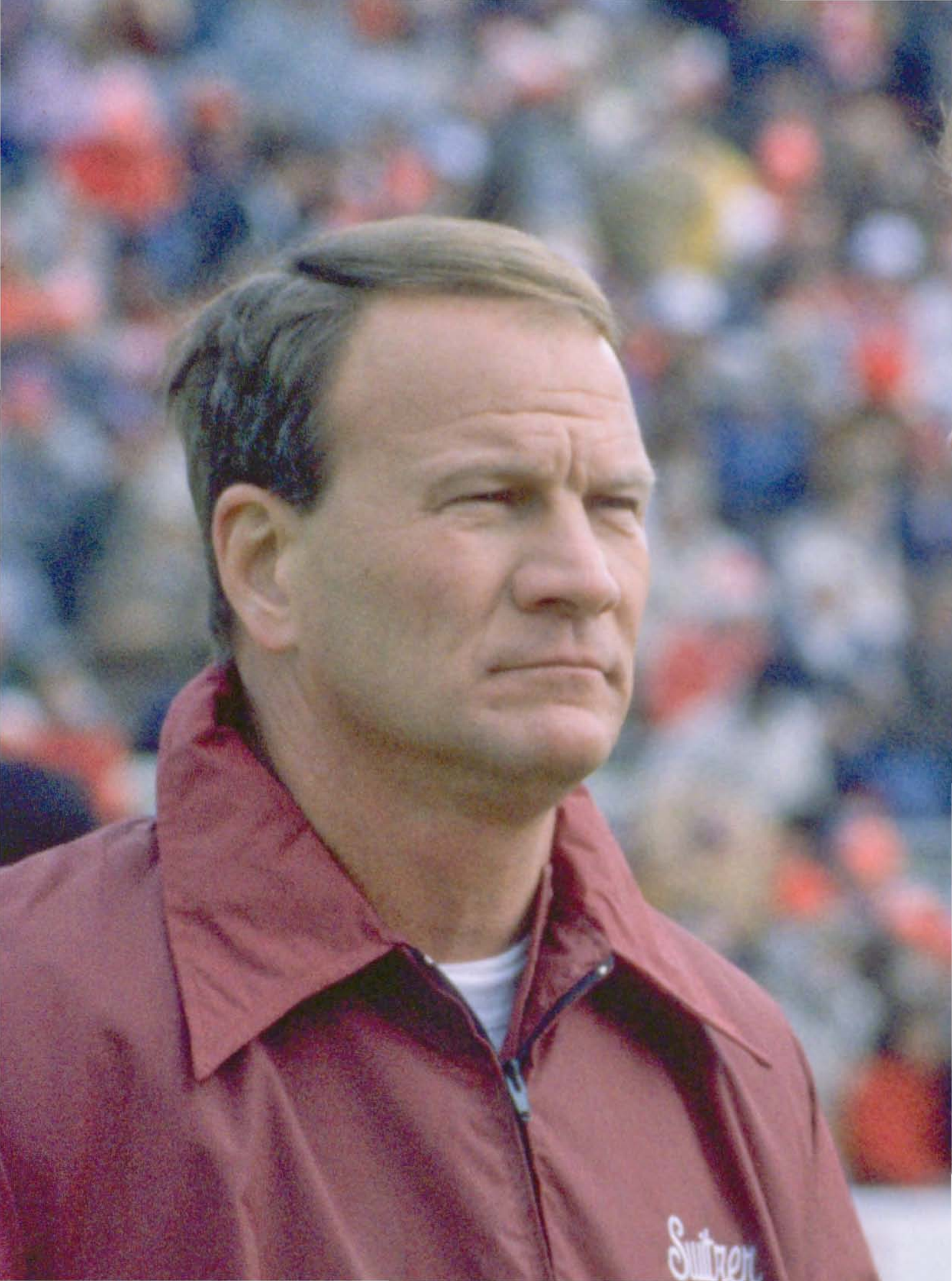
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

HALL OF FAMERS

Barry Switzer and Tom Osborne (both born in 1937) are forever linked, and not just because they're both in the College Football Hall of Fame. Their coaching careers ran parallel, Switzer's at Oklahoma, Osborne's at Nebraska, until Switzer resigned following the 1988 season. Both were offensive assistants during the 1971 "Game of the Century," and both were promoted to head coach in 1973, Switzer replacing Chuck Fairbanks, Osborne replacing Bob Devaney. Like Osborne, Switzer coached three national championship teams. He also coached the Dallas Cowboys to a Super Bowl championship. Jimmy Johnson is the only other coach with a college football national championship and a Super Bowl championship. Switzer's record at Oklahoma was 157-29-4, including 12-5 against Osborne, a reflection of what some called "Sooner Magic." Switzer has since revealed his magician's secret: players. The two were friendly rivals, not bitter, despite Osborne's Oklahoma frustrations while Switzer was coach. Osborne was honored when Nebraska played at Owen Field in 2000. Coach Frank Solich's No. 1-ranked Huskers lost to coach Bob Stoops' No. 3-ranked Sooners, 31-17.



GAMESREMEMBERED

Wilder spoils season

Missouri spoils season for second-ranked Huskers

WITH A VICTORY, No. 2-ranked Nebraska expected to be matched against Penn State in the Orange Bowl. And considering Penn State, an independent at the time, was ranked No. 1, the game would determine the national champion. The Cornhuskers were that close.

They also were riding the wave of emotion following a 17-14 upset of previous-No. 1 Oklahoma the week before at Memorial Stadium, coach Tom Osborne's first victory against the Sooners.

Missouri came to town with a 6-4 record and only an outside chance of earning a bowl bid. In fact, first-year Tigers coach Warren Powers, a

former Husker player and assistant, told his team if they could upset Nebraska, he would pay the team's expenses to a bowl, if that's what it took.

On the game's first play from scrimmage, Rick Berns broke loose for an 82-yard run and a touchdown. Missouri never slowed down Berns, a senior from Wichita Falls, Texas. He finished with a school-record 255 rushing yards on 36 carries and scored two touchdowns.

But the running back everyone would remember that day was James Wilder. The Missouri sophomore rushed for 181 yards and four touchdowns against the Blackshirts, who were leading the Big Eight in

rushing defense.

Nebraska finished with 517 yards of offense. And the Huskers were penalized only once, for 5 yards. But the penalty came at a critical time near the end of the first half. On first-and-goal at the Missouri 2-yard line, a Husker offensive lineman moved.

Nebraska had to settle for a field goal on the possession.

NEBRASKA DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR LANCE

VAN ZANDT: "We tried everything we have. We tried our standard 5-2 defense. We tried to blitz, dog, a '59' alignment, 'eagle,' everything. It seemed like the game lasted two weeks. It was a nightmare."

MISSOURI 35, (2) NEBRASKA 31

Nov. 18, 1978 • Memorial Stadium

Missouri	7	7	14	7	--	35
Nebraska	14	3	14	0	--	31

(N) Rick Berns 82 run (Billy Todd kick)
 (M) James Wilder 9 run (Jeff Brockhaus kick)
 (N) Junior Miller 2 pass Tom Sorley (Todd kick)
 (N) Todd 27 field goal
 (M) Kellen Winslow 14 pass Phil Bradley (Brockhaus kick)
 (N) Berns 2 run (Todd kick)
 (M) Wilder 1 run (Brockhaus kick)
 (M) Wilder 4 run (Brockhaus kick)
 (N) Tim Hager 4 run (Todd kick)
 (M) Wilder 7 run (Brockhaus kick)

Attendance: 75,850

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► *The previous year, in his first season as a head coach, Warren Powers brought Washington State to Lincoln and upset the Huskers 19-10.*

► *Instead of playing Penn State in the Orange Bowl, the Huskers had to play Oklahoma in a rare bowl rematch of conference teams. Penn State lost to Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.*

► *Powers' Missouri assistants included former Huskers John Faiman, Zaven Yaralian, Mark Heydorff, Dave Redding and Bill Thornton.*



CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

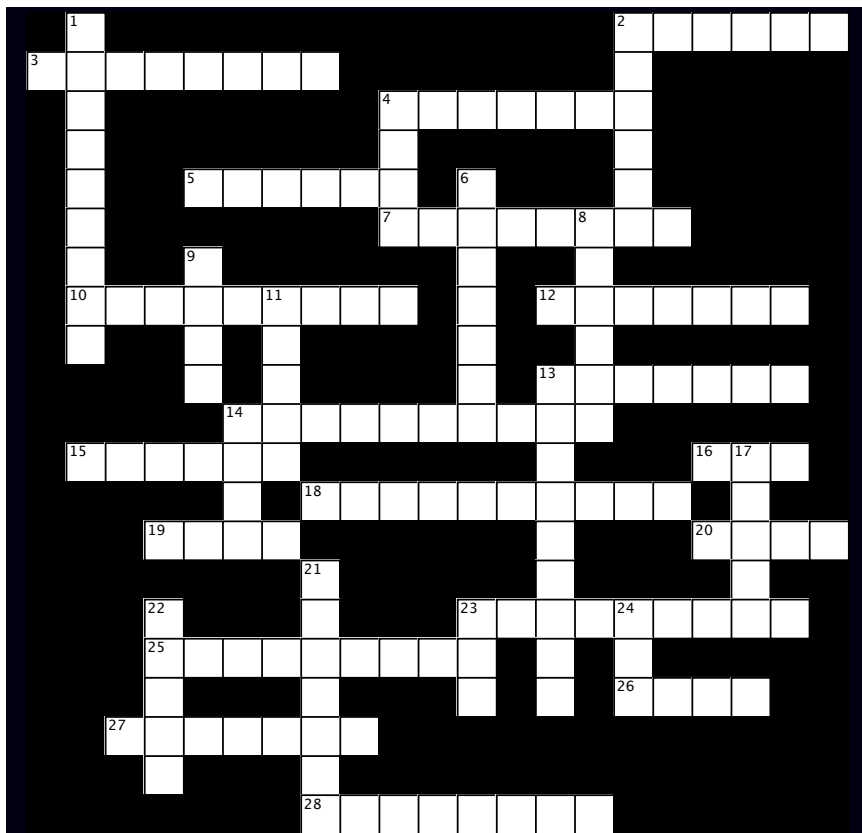
ACROSS

2. Missouri head coach
3. Missouri campus location
4. Pro Football Hall of Famer who played tight end at Missouri
5. Missouri nickname
7. Wears No. 3 (defense)
10. Nov. 6 opponent
12. Wide receivers coach
13. Lavonte David's home state
14. DeJon Gomes' home state
15. Nov. 13 opponent
16. Network for NU-Missouri telecast
18. Ex-Husker running back now with Denver Broncos
19. Leading rusher vs. Texas
20. Missouri school color
23. P.J. Smith's home state
25. Bo Pelini's alma Mater
26. Set school record with punt return vs. Texas
27. Missouri quarterback
28. Wears No. 3 (offense)

DOWN

1. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with Denver Broncos
2. Former Missouri head coach who played at Nebraska
4. Wears No. 5 (defense)
6. Longtime offensive line coach
8. 2000 Rimington Award winner
9. Leading receiver vs. Texas
11. Missouri's bowl game after 2009 season
13. Memorial Stadium playing surface
14. Bo's older brother
17. Tight ends coach
21. 2009 College Football Hall of Fame selection
22. NU's only 4-time all-conference selection
23. Wears No. 5 (offense)
24. 2009 Nagurski Award winner


Answers will appear in the Nov. 6 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



TOBY PROCEEDS TO WRECK THE WHOLE "CASUAL HUSKER FRIDAY" TRADITION AT HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT.



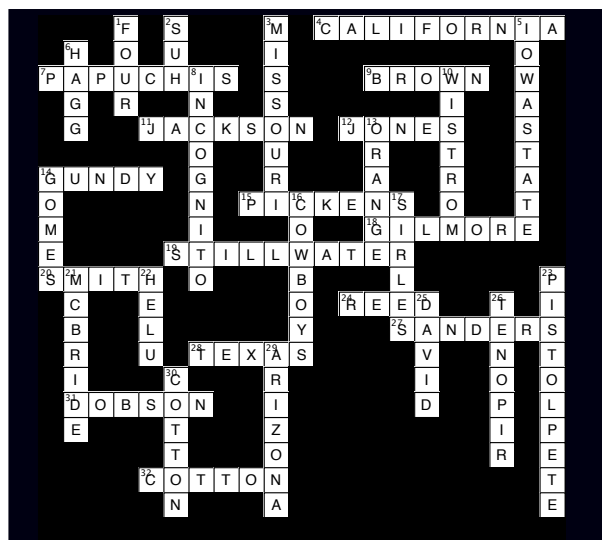
BRAIN BUSTER

I was recruited from Kansas City, Mo., by Bill Jennings and finished my collegiate career as a halfback on Bob Devaney's first team in 1962. After six seasons with the Oakland Raiders, playing in Super Bowl II, I returned to Nebraska as an assistant coach under Devaney and then Tom Osborne. I would be a source of considerable frustration to Osborne in 1977 and 1978. Who am I?

Answer will appear in our next issue

OCT. 23 ANSWER: Demorrio Williams, who had 128 total tackles

OCTOBER 23 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Paul, Huskers find redemption in Stillwater

REDEMPTION FOR THE Nebraska football team was reflected on the scoreboards at either end of Oklahoma State's state-of-the-art Boone Pickens Stadium.

The form it took was 51-41, Cornhuskers.

That might seem curious redemption for a team recognized for defense. Statistically speaking, the defensive performance against Oklahoma State was lacking. In addition to 41 points, the Cowboys amassed 495 yards of offense, with running back Kendall Hunter rushing for 201 of those yards on 26 carries. Only seven others have ever rushed for more yards against Nebraska.

However, "in this game, you've gotta pick each other up," coach Bo Pelini said. "I thought the times the offense needed picked up, the defense did it and vice versa. It's a team game. I said going in we had to do whatever it takes to win the football game. That's what we did."

In this case, as the adage goes: The best defense is good offense.

Nebraska controlled the ball and the clock during the second half, running 45 plays from scrimmage to Oklahoma State's 26 and forcing the Cowboys to punt three times.

The second-half disparity in time of possession was dramatic: 21:01-8:59. "We weren't perfect, but I thought we settled down and played a pretty good

second half," said Pelini.

Plus, the Cowboys' high-octane offense couldn't score if Nebraska had the ball.

Redemption also was reflected in individual performances. For instance, quarterback Taylor Martinez, who had been pulled in the third quarter of the previous week's 20-13 loss against Texas, looked like the player he had been in four of the first five games, rushing for 112 yards and completing 23-of-35 passes for 323 yards and five touchdowns.

Actually, the passing was a new dimension. Pelini and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson had talked about his ability as a passer, claimed he could sling (Watson's word) it, but he had never shown that ability to the degree he did this particular afternoon.

Nine of his completions, including eight in the second half and six in the third quarter, were to Niles Paul. Six of the nine were good for first downs. And Paul finished with 131 receiving yards.

Oh yes, he also returned a kickoff 100 yards for Nebraska's second touchdown.

Paul was looking for redemption after dropping what would have been a touchdown pass against Texas. That play resulted in fan criticism to such a degree that the senior wide receiver from Omaha felt compelled to cancel

his social-networking account on Facebook.

Paul then worked to redeem himself during the week, remaining after practice each day, spending additional time catching passes "in awkward positions," positions that probably wouldn't occur in a game. "My father raised me that way," said Paul, who's always stood up to his shortcomings.

Paul has forgiven his critics. "Of course, I hold no grudges against the fans," he said. "I'm a forgiving person. I realized it was frustration involved with the fans, the (Texas) game.

"It's affected me to a certain extent, but I can forgive them for that."

He understands the frustration because he's a fan, too, and "I find myself criticizing guys in the NFL, 'Oh, he should have caught that ball,'" said Paul. "So I think with my experience now, I'd be a good fan. But if I never played football, I probably wouldn't be a good fan."

The Huskers made mistakes that could have been costly. But "we talked about it going into the game," Pelini said, "no matter what happens, you've got to keep fighting. You've got to pick up for the guy next to you and the guy next to him, and no matter what, make some plays."

That was the path to redemption, for Martinez, for Paul, for everyone. **N**

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